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# Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk November 8, 2015

North & West edition No 685

## HOUSING

### Report on county's growth prospects

Kent Property Market Report 2015 released

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Figures worse for Gravesham, Shepway and Thanet

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# Kent on Sunday

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## Let lessons of past shape our actions in the future

THE sacrifice of those who have died on the battlefield in service of their country will be remembered today as thousands don their poppy and march off to take part in Remembrance Day parades.

The tradition has been carried out for almost a century, starting with the original Armistice Day in 1918, at the end of the First World War.

After the bloodshed of the two world wars, many people began to use Remembrance Day not only to pay tribute to the fallen, but also to remember the horrors of war.

The aim of that reflection was to make the world a more peaceful place.

The problem though, is that we seem to be edging ever closer to a greater numbers of conflicts than ever before.

While we're unlikely to ever see the type of war which many had to endure during the early

part of the 20th century, the globe still seems to be a place of ever increasing conflict.

With civil wars growing in Syria and Iraq, and mounting pressure on our government to tackle rising militants in these countries, our armed forces may yet see more action in the coming years.

While Remembrance Day is a time to remember servicemen and women who have lost their lives, it should also be remembered why they lost their lives. The soldiers who fought

in Flanders and on the beaches of

Normandy did not die for no reason. Their lives were lost helping to make the world a better, safer place for future generations.

While taking the decision to go to war should never be an easy one, it is up to our leaders to continue the tradition of ensuring the world remains safe for years to come.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

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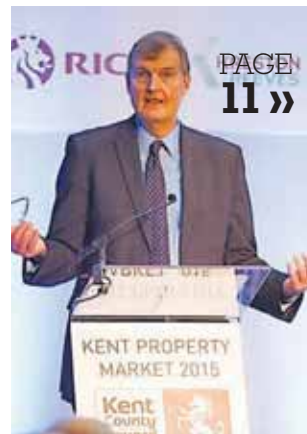
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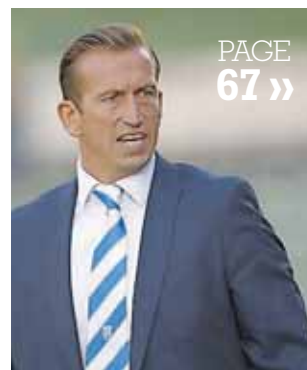
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## School drops subjects blaming funding issues

By Jamie Weir

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MAIDSTONE's Oakwood Grammar School dropped four subjects from its curriculum earlier this week, saying that finances were too stretched to offer them.

The school's head teacher, Kevin Moody wrote to parents to inform them of the decision.

In the letter the head teacher spoke of a 'very bleak financial situation in the next few years' blaming government for a failure to increase funding in line with the additional costs schools were being forced to bear.

Mr Moody said in the letter: "All schools are faced with rising costs in National Insurance and employer pensions contributions as well as pay rises for teachers and support staff.

"Unfortunately, our income has not seen any increase to mitigate for this, with the government currently pledging to protect the school budget in cash terms per pupil but no increases, unless of course there is a big expansion in pupil numbers."

The head teacher said that



**BLEAK:** The cash just isn't there for the school according to head teacher Kevin Moody

neither he nor the governing body envisaged any significant rise in pupil numbers from its current 1,000 at the school. As a result, he said there had been 'some very tough decisions' being taken.

Education expert Peter Read, who runs website Kentadvice.co.uk, said he agreed that changes to funding were problematic. He told KoS that grammar schools were being hit disproportionately hard.

Mr Read said: "This isn't the first

grammar school in Kent to say it's cutting back on subjects.

"New funding arrangements from government have put sixth forms on an even funding footing with further education colleges. The problem is that sixth forms have to provide a full education programme, which colleges do not.

"It has hit grammar schools particularly hard, because they tend to have a greater number of pupils who continue to sixth form."

It's particularly sad because it'll impact on students the most, and their welfare."

The school has called on parents to write to their MP to call for government to increase funding.

Maidstone MP Helen Grant told KoS: "I am addressing this issue along with 110 other MPs in the Fair School Funding campaign. If successful this would certainly benefit Oakwood Park alongside many other Kent schools."

## Report slams initiative by ambulance chiefs as poor for Kent's patients

AMBULANCE bosses have had to defend themselves again, after a report was released by NHS England criticising a project run earlier this year to decrease pressures on its service.

The report – published by NHS England on Thursday – highlights failings at the South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (Secamb) which ran a project that bought its ambulances up to 10 extra minutes by re-designating some emergency calls.

The report says that in one case, the project had led to a 'missed opportunity' to improve the patient's outcome.

Secamb though, remains unrepentant, stating it found no evidence less serious patients were harmed as a result of the project. It was carried out between December 2014 and this February, after the service suffered an 'extremely busy period'.

A South East Coast Ambulance Service spokesperson said: "South

East Coast Ambulance Service introduced a process to deal with certain calls passed from 111 to the 999 service.

"There has been some suggestion that this resulted in less serious patients being harmed. We would like to make it clear that our investigations to date have found no evidence to support this suggestion."

Paul Sutton, chief executive of Secamb did admit that proper processes had not been followed.

He said: "We recognise that the proper processes were not fully followed in setting up the pilot and we do apologise for this. The decision was made during a time of high patient demand and the pilot was undertaken to ensure that we were able to respond promptly to the most seriously ill patients during this time.

"We fully accept the recommendations in the NHS England report and have already started to act upon them. We are committed to being open and transparent."

## Food and drink producers show off at global trade fair

FOOD and drinks businesses got the chance to show off some of the county's best produce at a major trade show in Germany.

The group of 10 businesses exhibited at the Anuga fair, which brings together 150,000 of the industry's biggest players. This year Kent County Council received a grant under the government's GREAT UK Challenge Fund which

helped fund the trip to promote Kent's food and drinks industry.

Cabinet member for economic development Mark Dance said: "This visit was a great opportunity for Kent firms to experience one of the world's largest food & drink trade fairs, gain market insight, make new international contacts and broaden their business into the export market."

## MPs backing local business initiative in festive run up

THREE of Kent's MPs are set to join with the Federation of Small Business (FSB) to promote Small Business Saturday in the run up to Christmas.

The national event promotes the benefits of buying from small local retailers.

This year Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark, Medway MP Kelly Tolhurst and Ashford MP Damian

Green will all visit local businesses to show their support.

Zoe Cairns, FSB regional policy lead, said: "Small Business Saturday helps build awareness of local companies and encourages people to shop locally.

"With 99 per cent of the businesses in Kent being small and independent companies, we have a lot to celebrate."



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## Treasury must fund Op Stack solution says MP

A GROUP of Kent MPs has lobbied chancellor George Osborne to set aside some cash to help fund a solution to Operation Stack.

Canterbury's Julian Brazier was part of the delegation which met with Mr Osborne.

Mr Brazier said: "The Department for Transport has done a lot of great work over the summer in coopera-

tion with Kent County Council to look for a solution. The Department now has a proposal to put to HM Treasury that will need funding.

"The view of my Kent colleagues and I is that this project ought to be considered a national infrastructure project, given the very great impact that Operation Stack's implementation has on the UK economy."

## Council clamps down on HGV parking after 'scores of complaints'

By Tom Pyman

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HAULAGE industry body the Freight Transport Association has said that bans on lorry drivers parking in Shepway are unfair, and nothing more than a sign that new lorry parks are needed.

The bans came into force on Monday, covering 19 separate areas which have been affected by rogue lorry drivers looking for a spot to rest.

Shepway District Council introduced the new bans, stating that overnight lorry parking had caused obstruction, damage, noise and litter leading to multiple complaints from locals.

But the Tunbridge Wells-based FTA said the bans failed to address the causes of the lorries parking in the areas.

FTA head of policy, Natalie Chapman, told KoS: "We fully understand the problems that lorry parking can cause residents.



**BANNED:** HGVs will be fined

"The problem we have with these new bans is that if something like this is to be introduced, there must be proper lorry parking facilities for drivers who are legally required to take rest breaks.

"If we're doing nothing more than moving on tired drivers, the problem simply won't go away. Instead it'll just move down the road."

Ms Chapman said that instead of bans, there needed to be better facilities along both the M20 corridor, as well as the M2.

The new ban will mean lorries are no longer allowed to park from midnight to 7am in 16 streets in Folkestone, the A20 at Sellindge, the A20 Ashford Road near junction 11 and Farthing Common. Drivers will just get a warning for the first two weeks, but £70 fines will be in place after the period of grace.

Malcolm Dearden, cabinet member for transport, said handing out fines alone would not solve the problem of repeat offenders and the council wanted to apply to Kent County Council (KCC) for authority to clamp their vehicles.

Cllr Dearden said: "KCC has asked us to wait until the end of a six-month clamping trial in Ashford before we apply for delegated powers to clamp."



**HEARTLESS:** Delphine was left to die

## Blind dumped dog wins the heart of couple

A KIND couple have travelled over 500 miles to rehome a blind dog after falling in love with it over Facebook.

Life had taken a bleak turn for Delphine – a Springer Spaniel – when she was dumped in a remote lane in Maidstone earlier in the year. She had been tied to a pallet of bricks and left for dead.

After her story was shared on social network Facebook, Wokingham couple John and Anne Hopkins just knew they needed to offer her a place in their home.

Despite needing to make the 130-mile roundtrip to Kent's Leybourne Animal Centre four times to build up Delphine's confidence, the pair persevered and now have their new pet pooch at home with them.

Mr Hopkins said: "It is incredible how quickly she has learned to trust us.

"When we met her for the first time she was pacing around and when we touched her she flinched and was extremely nervous.

"Delphine has gradually learned to relax with us. Her little tail never stops wagging now."

The RSPCA are now appealing to try and track down whoever dumped her in the country lane. Anyone with information should call 0300 123 8018.

## Councillor blasted for bullying behaviour

TONBRIDGE and Malling Borough Council has removed Mike Taylor from its planning committee after finding the councillor had 'brought the council into disrepute'.

The independent councillor was brought to book by his peers, who considered the recommendations of the council's standards committee.

Cllr Taylor – ward member for Borough Green and Long Mill – was found to have breached standards by using 'inappropriate language' and levying 'unfounded allegations' against senior officers at the council which may have been personally and professionally damaging.

However the panel found that Cllr Taylor had not 'crossed the line' by bullying staff.

Janet Sergison, chairman of the standards hearing panel, said: "The panel took great pains to ensure a fair hearing and, given the decision reached, felt compelled to recommend these sanctions to council. The reputation of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has been upheld."

## Investors sought for solar farm project

A COMMUNITY-owned solar energy company is trying to drum up investors for a share in the solar farm which could raise up to £3 million for projects in the Swale and Medway area.

Orchard Community Energy - the company behind the drive - is calling for investors to buy into a new solar farm before a government funding deadline later this month.

The solar farm is in Iwade, Swale, and currently under construction. When completed it will generate 5MW of electricity, enough to power 1,250 local homes. A community benefit fund projected to be worth £3 million is also planned.

Penny Shepherd, chair of Orchard Community Energy, said: "The government has announced that eligibility for Enterprise Investment Scheme, which offers tax breaks of 30 per cent for investors, will be withdrawn in November when its Finance Bill receives Royal Assent. So we are urging investors to act quickly to get the maximum benefits of being part of Kent's first community-owned solar farm."

## Controversial expert to speak at university

RENNOWNED zoologist John Hanks will make his case for a legal trade in rhino horn at a talk at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology.

The talk - which has been organised by the University of Kent - will see the professor defend the idea that if the trade was legalised it could help create a sustainable and long term future for rhinos.

Professor Hanks gained a worldwide reputation for his work on countering aggressive poaching of rhinos - which has increased by 30 per cent over the past year.

He advocated fighting the poachers with aggressive tactics known as Operation Crossbow which saw former members of the SAS take to the bush to tackle poaching.

The talk will look to address the reasons why it is so difficult to stop poaching, and address the question of whether trade bans work.

It will take place at 6pm on Thursday, November 12, in the Wolfe Lecture Theatre on the University's Canterbury campus. It is free for all to attend.



# Blatter to burn at Edenbridge bonfire night this weekend

By Luke May

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FIFA president Sepp Blatter was revealed as this year's 'guy' for the Edenbridge Bonfire on Wednesday.

More than 30 per cent of votes were cast for the suspended Fifa chief, who has been making the headlines following reports of corruption within football's governing body.

On Saturday, November 7, a torch lit parade will start in the town, culminating in the bonfire, and burning of Mr Blatter's effigy.

As part of the procession through the town, local schools created elaborate carnival floats and costumes, with around 500 families and individuals joining in.

But the tradition of burning an effigy of Guy Fawkes will take centre stage at the event dating from the Gunpowder Treason Plot of 1603.

Jon Mitchell, from the Edenbridge Bonfire Society, said: "We're hoping for a lot of attendants, the forecast is dry for the night."

"Hopefully there will be a few thousand people there on the night."

Mr Blatter was the hot favourite to be announced with bookmakers William Hill taking bets at 6/4. Other top contenders had been Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn at 10/1



**HATED:** The Fifa president's effigy will burn for Bonfire night

and US presidential hopeful Donald Trump at 12/1

Previous years have seen effigies of television personality Katie Hopkins and Tour de France drug cheat Lance Armstrong burn.

The Fifa chief has been under fire in recent years, as football's governing body has received a string of allegations of corruption.

He was suspended from his position for 90 days at the beginning of October, as an investigation into corruption during his service gets under way.

Potential candidates had included Kent based MEP and UKIP leader Nigel Farage, and 50 Shades of Grey author EL James, who studied at the University of Kent.

The annual event is run by a team of around 100 people, nearly all of whom are local volunteers and receives sponsorship from local business to fund the night, as they attempt to raise money for charities in the local area.

Tickets are available for Saturday from £3 for children and £7 for adults.



## Station death tragedy

THE family of "bubbly" Sophie Lintott paid tribute to the teen after she died following a fall onto Sittingbourne train station's tracks.

The 18-year old collapsed at around 8am on Monday while waiting on the platform, tumbling on to the tracks

Emergency services attended the scene, but she died in hospital on Tuesday.

A statement from Miss Lintott's family read:

"Sophie was a bubbly girl who loved life, family and all her friends from school, guiding, dance and work. She touched so many people's lives and will leave a lasting impression."

"Sophie loved flowers, but had expressed a wish for any tributes to be made as donations to either Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance service or Crohns and Colitis UK."

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# MP gets behind new hub for community in Cranbrook

MAIDSTONE and the Weald MP Helen Grant says she's backing the demolition of a collection of buildings to enable development of a new community hub in Cranbrook.

Proposals to redevelop the site will be discussed by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's planning committee this week.

The Conservative MP says following a survey she conducted the backing of locals was obvious.

Mrs Grant said: "I've known for years the strength of feeling about this situation but now we have it in writing. Such a huge majority must be heard by those who they elected to serve them."

The survey revealed a whopping 94 per cent of those polled were in favour of demolishing the existing



buildings to enable redevelopment while only 3.1 per cent wanted to preserve the existing buildings.

TWBC's Seán Holden said: "This survey by our MP shows that the people of Cranbrook think this

development is absolutely the right thing for their town.

"It will enable us to get a much needed community hub and it will clear away a mess at the heart of one Kent's finest towns."

# Hospital parking doubles as trust looks for cash

PARKING charges for short stays at hospitals run by the East Kent Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust (Ekhuft) are set to double.

The trust made the announcement stating that its intention was to use the extra cash raised to provide better parking facilities at its hospitals in the east of the county.

The trust is responsible for the William Harvey in Ashford, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother (QEOM) in Margate, the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, the Buckland in Dover and the Royal Victoria in Folkestone.

The changes will mean that people parking in the hospital car parks for between 20 minutes and three-hours will see an extra £1 added to the fee. The new prices started at all

of the trust's sites on Monday. As part of the announcement, the trust also said it was planning improvements to its car parks.

These will come in the form of fresh new disabled parking facilities being added to each of the trust's hospital car parks.

It will also use some of the cash raised to add an extra 34 patient or visitor spaces to its Kent and Canterbury hospital, which will be closer to its '1937 Building'.

A trust spokesman said: "With the trust owning and operating its car parks, it needs the income from these charges to ensure it can run, staff, maintain and invest in its car parks without the need to use money assigned for clinical care."

## Smuggling trial date set

A ROCHESTER mother will stand trial on February 1 accused of helping smuggle a haul of 22 assault rifles and nine machine pistols into the UK.

Jennifer Katherine Arthy, 41, appeared at London's Old Bailey on Monday denying the charge of importing guns.

## KCC consultation opens

KENT County Council is consulting on plans to deliver health in an 'integrated' way.

KCC say the plans will improve efficiency and deliver a better service.

The consultation runs until December 14 2015 and is available at [www.kent.gov.uk/healthimprovement](http://www.kent.gov.uk/healthimprovement)

## Building plans in public

PLANS for 4,000 homes in Canterbury went on show to the public on Friday.

The development known as Mountfield Park is likely to prove controversial.

Corinthian Land is behind the development, and says it will apply for planning early next year.

## Health finalists chosen

FINALISTS have been chosen for the new Dementia Friendly Kent Awards.

The awards celebrate the work of volunteers, organisations and projects to help make Kent more dementia friendly.

The winners will be announced on November 27.

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## Top Three Stories



### 1. Tributes to dead teen

Sophie Lintott died on Tuesday

### 2. Blatter set to burn

Fifa chief is set for Edenbridge's bonfire

### 3. PM commits to Stack

He pledged to back a solution

## The Essential Guide:



### Your guide to bonfire night

GO OUT with a bang this weekend with the best fireworks in Kent this weekend.



**FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY:** KENT's skies will be lit up next Saturday, when a group of kite flyers raise money for Children in Need. The Kent Kite Flyers club will send up decorated kites in Walmer, to mark the end of their flying season.

## Missed last week's...?

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## Top Three Blogs



### 1. TV show's fresh revival

Walking Dead is now back from the brink

### 2. Straight out of uni

Life suddenly gets real for Tom Pyman

### 3. Backseat driver's gone

Technology's going to change everything

## Results of the KoS Online Poll

### Is the National Living Wage a good idea?

- 1 Yes - 17%
- 2 No, it hurts business - 35%
- 3 Yes but it needs to be statutory - 41%
- 4 Maybe - 7%

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**BUOYANT:** Residential development has had a good year, with increases in the numbers of properties being delivered and (above) KCC leader Paul Carter at the report's launch

# Challenges ahead but property seeing strong growth in county

Kent County Council's leader Paul Carter says that while growth is good now the future of the county rests on ensuring there is enough funding for critical pieces of infrastructure reports **Jamie Weir...**

**G**ROWTH is becoming more challenging due to demands for more infrastructure such as roads according to Kent County Council leader Paul Carter.

The Tory councillor made his remarks as this year's Kent Property Market Report was published, which examines the county's development picture and its prospects for the future.

The report highlighted a 'sharp increase' in housebuilding over the last 12 months, driven in part by an exodus of people from London as prices in the capital reach stratospheric levels.

Cllr Carter said that KCC had been working alongside Medway Council, government, district council and other partners from the private sector to come up with a solution to the costs of growth.

The project, known as the Kent and Medway Growth Infrastructure Framework (GIF) had identified £6.74 billion worth of infrastructure improvements required to help with development over the next 16 years.

Of that, there was a funding shortfall of £2.01 billion – something which could inhibit the county's growth.

Cllr Carter said: "The GIF is an incredibly exciting opportunity for us to set the terms for infrastructure in Kent and Medway with government and the private sector. It tells a sober-

ing story about the challenge we face in delivering growth, but it also gives us a unique chance to do something about it.

"The growth challenge we face in Kent and Medway is significant – to deliver the approximately 160,000 homes and more than 135,000 jobs that local authorities are planning across the area to 2031, there is a £6.74 billion bill for infrastructure, of which £2 billion is unfunded."

The property report highlighted one of the key projects as a solution to Operation Stack – something it said hadn't helped with the perception of the county.

Cllr Carter noted that there would be challenges to fill the cash deficit – something he said would require innovation.

He said: "The resulting infrastructure challenge is one that we face collectively across local authorities, the development industry, our communities and national government.

"The solution to this challenge will not come from the public sector alone, nor can we simply expect to get all of this from the industry; rather we need real innovation in how we work with the private sector and government to get the most out of the resources we have, whilst introducing new ways of leveraging funding and capturing value from development.

"We will be working with industry, public sector and communities to cre-

**“ The growth challenge we face in Kent and Medway is significant. There is a £6.74 billion bill for infrastructure, of which £2 billion is unfunded...”**

**Paul Carter,**  
Conservative leader of KCC

ate the best opportunity for quality communities across Kent and Medway into the future."

While the future of the county's property market is still causing headaches for politicians, the current picture is buoyant.

The report found if London was removed, the south east led the country's residential property market in price growth with an 8.1 per cent increase. And Kent saw a huge jump, soaring by 10.4 per cent. More people are selling here too, with a 17 per cent increase in the number of flats and houses sold on the market.

Caxtons Chartered Surveyors was one of the businesses which helped to produce the report.

Its chairman, Ron Roser, said there had been continued improvement in

the county's property market over the last year.

Mr Roser said: "Kent has mirrored other occupational office and industrial markets outside London in demand and rental growth. In turn, this has sustained investor interest, and when strong assets do come to the market there is increased interest and competition."

Housebuilding had boomed on a number of sites, with others – including Medway's Lodge Hill and the Ebbsfleet Garden City set to bring large scale delivery according to Mr Roser.

He said: "Consumer confidence has fuelled the residential market with a promise of almost 27,000 new homes for the county. There is marked activity on development sites across the county. This buoyancy has proved to be an impetus to major regeneration schemes with a strong residential component."

The chief executive of inward investment agency, Locate in Kent – which also helped produce the report – Paul Wookey, said more emphasis needed to now be placed on getting commercial building happening.

Mr Wookey said: "In terms of growth across the key sectors, this year's property market report is one of the strongest in recent times.

"A number of strands are coming together now that make Kent particularly attractive to businesses, from Growth Deal funding to infrastructure

projects and increased confidence.

"But that all brings with it the key challenge of ensuring that new office, warehouse and industrial space is coming forward sufficiently quickly to meet the increased demand we are seeing for commercial property."

It was a sentiment Mr Roser agreed with, saying commercial property needed a boost. Despite the need for more commercial development though, this year has seen the return of growth in office rentals. It's the first time there has been growth since the 2008 financial crisis began. That indicates more businesses opening, or relocating to Kent.

Retail properties also took a step forward, with growth in the sector following five years of falling rents as high streets across the county dwindled.

Mr Roser said: "There is comparatively slower growth in the retail sector with limited rental improvement but business parks are experiencing a resurgence and in many cases, old office and dated office stock has been refreshed and converted to much needed residential dwellings.

"In general, improving infrastructure and on-going regeneration has positively and directly benefited Kent, presenting us with many more opportunities than in the recent past. This year's report reflects the buoyancy across the industry and it is welcomed by all."



**STRUGGLE:** Those who don't earn the national living wage are likely to lead a hand to mouth existence according to KPMG which conducted the research

# More work to do as figures reveal one-in-four do not earn living wage

With around one third of workers in Gravesham, Shepway and Thanet still not earning the national living wage more must be done to ensure salaries grow in line with economy according to experts...

By Jamie Weir

[jamie.weir@archant.co.uk](mailto:jamie.weir@archant.co.uk)

**W**ITH the cost of living rising, the government's George Osborne has said he wants to see more employers increasing workers' wages, yet this week it was revealed that one-in-four of the county's workers earns less than the National Living Wage (NLW).

Auditing and accountancy firm KPMG released the statistics as NLW week began on Monday, aiming to highlight the number of workers who still earn under the sum.

Currently £8.25 an hour, the NLW is set by an independent body and – unlike the minimum wage – is voluntary for employers to sign up to.

The latest figures show that across the county, 25 per cent of people take home less than the wage for the work they do. It fails to compare favourably with the rest of the UK, which has an average of 23 per cent who earn less than the NLW.

Some pockets of the county are worse than others, with Shepway, Gravesham and Thanet topping the list for the largest number of workers working for less than the NLW.

Gravesham and Shepway each have 32 per cent of their workforce who earn less than the wage, while Thanet – traditionally an area which has struggled with deprivation – sees 36 per cent of its workforce taking home less than the NLW.

The failure to encourage more employers to pay the NLW is something Medway's Labour group leader, Vince Maple, says is outrageous.

Cllr Maple told KoS: "There are people who are currently living on a knife-edge right now, in real trouble and having to go to charities to help them.

"It's a very disappointing fact that there are still companies which aren't paying their workers the national living wage. With the cost of living increasing every day, something needs to be done to help these struggling workers."

It is a thorny issue as although government has said employers should start bumping up pay packets as the economy gets stronger, business says it could stifle growth across the UK.

John Allan heads up the Federation of Small Business which lobbies on behalf of smaller organisations.

He said: "The UK economy has been performing well, but we should not allow this to make us complacent.

**“ With the cost of living still high the squeeze on household finances remains acute, meaning many are forced to live hand to mouth..... ”**

**David Bywater,**  
Senior partner KPMG south east

Businesses worked hard to weather the financial crisis, keeping on staff despite pressure to cut headcounts. Now times are better we know members are beginning to raise wages and take on new staff.

"Over half of our members already pay their staff above the voluntary Living Wage, but those that don't are often operating in highly competitive sectors with very tight margins. In many of these industries, the only sustainable way to deliver real long term wage growth is to improve productivity. Without improved productivity there is a real risk that higher

enforced statutory wages will lead to fewer jobs being created, fewer hours for existing staff and, unfortunately in some cases, to job losses."

That's an argument which David Bywater, senior partner at KPMG in the south east, says has been roundly debunked.

He said: "For some time it was easy for businesses to hide behind the argument that increased wages hit their bottom line, but there is ample evidence to suggest the opposite – in the shape of higher retention and higher productivity. It may not be possible for every business, but it is certainly not impossible to explore the feasibility of paying the Living Wage."

Wage rises due to growth in the economy, say South Thanet MP Craig Mackinlay, will help to ensure his constituency – currently well below the national average – starts seeing real wage growth in the future.

Mr Mackinlay told KoS: "The statutory increase which the chancellor announced earlier this year will help get workers from across the area a much needed pay rise. We are also seeing real improvements in job creation in the area, with places like Discovery Park working hard to boost the economy. I'm also working to re-

generate the port at Ramsgate, and am working to bring back the high quality jobs which were lost from Manston Airport when it was shut down."

That statutory rise though, isn't going to help people who are struggling due to various pressures according to Cllr Maple.

He told KoS: "People not getting enough money in their pay packet isn't in isolation. There are other issues, with tax credit cuts still hanging over people, and in Medway the council is currently consulting on cutting council tax relief.

"That would mean people in the area, already struggling, were hit with an increase in their council tax payments. The rate, being 35 per cent of council tax being paid by these residents, would be the highest in the country."

Mr Bywater agreed, saying more now needed to be done to help workers.

He said: "With the cost of living still high the squeeze on household finances remains acute, meaning that the reality for many is that they are forced to live hand to mouth."

"The figures show that there is still more to be done if we are to eradicate in work poverty."





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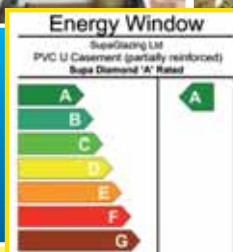
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# Dancing with no fear: The railway town with high brow ambitions

Hidden away in the heart of Ashford is an internationally-renowned performance dance company with big plans for the future...

**By Chris Britcher**

[chris.britcher@archant.co.uk](mailto:chris.britcher@archant.co.uk)

**S**AT just back from the River Stour and a strong-armed stone's throw from the Ashford International train station sits the town's leisure centre.

Today, the Stour Centre is a glass-fronted, modern building. The original complex, replaced in part at least in 2007 after a £14.6m redevelopment – bolted onto the side of the civic centre – remains.

Where the busy entrance once stood is now closed to the public – a somewhat deserted wing of a building which used to resound to the sound of excitable children and the scent of swimming pool chlorine.

But take the winding ramp up to the new foyer and instead of heading right to the swimming pool with its flumes, modern gym with treadmills and the trimmings, take a sharp left and you access the old building.

It's far from the shiny polished surfaces and bright lights which welcome visitors in the modern extension.

Instead there is a gloom which hangs in the air like a fog. Everywhere cries out for a lick of paint; a little tender loving care.

As you rise up a flight of stairs – formerly the route from the main reception – there is an office lurking in what was once the cafeteria.

Here 21st century life splashes back into being – a quiet but industrial room where a small but dedicated team hammer keyboards, leaf through paperwork and deal with the day-to-day business of one of the world's most celebrated cultural organisations.

Ashford, with the very best will in the world, is not and never has been a cultural hotspot. There was a spell in the early 1990s when work for the high speed rail link sliced through it, when it didn't even have a cinema to its name as its long time movie house made way for a multi-storey car park.

Today, it has a little more to offer. The Revelations St Mary – a town centre church which doubles up as a performance space – has created if not a beating heart, then at least a pulse of culture.

Yet inside the forgotten side of the Stour Centre is the Jasmin Vardimon Company – an organisation which while perhaps not meaning much to the average man on the street, is a very big name indeed in the world of performance dance.

It is, perhaps, one of the county's most significant purveyors of original, often challenging, modern dance.

On the floor beneath its office, it rents a high-ceilinged performance space. A visit during rehearsal will greet the visitor with booming music and the sight of well-toned bodies writhing across the sprung floor in dramatic, tightly choreographed, style.

The space on which they cavort is designed to match the stage size of London's acclaimed dance theatre Sadler's Wells.

And it is here the world's most polished dancers will jet in to rehearse shows which will tour the world – normally to great critical acclaim.

Not, perhaps, the first thing you from a town famed for its railway heritage.

Yet for the past three and a bit years the Jasmin Vardimon Company – named and led by the acclaimed Israeli-born dancer and associate artist at Sadler's Wells – has called Ashford its home. And Ashford, in exchange, has loudly proclaimed to anyone who will listen about how it is the base of such a high-brow artistic organisation.

"There are two very straightforward reasons we moved to Ashford," explains executive director Ian Ross who heads up the business side of the operation, "the connectivity to London and to Europe. I can go to a meeting in London or Paris and still get back here for an afternoon of work."







**STOUR CENTRE:** Home to the highly-regarded Jasmin Vardimon Company



"Plus we tour so much to Europe and our creative teams comes from London so that was the number one reason. The second reason is the reception we got from the council.

"I think the council was keen to

have tenants here and was looking for an international profile. I think Ashford Borough Council saw it as more of a statement of intent.

"From a creative perspective, give us the space and we can make the en-

ergy. The local authority support makes it work - they want us here.

Ms Vardimon herself says the gap between the capital and the town lets creative juices flow.

She told KoS: "It is exactly the right

distance from the capital; close enough but far enough away for new ideas - it's a fertile ground for fresh ideas."

When a production is under way she'll be in Ashford every day for

months at a time. Dancers from Spain and Japan have recently relocated to the town after working here, and in the build-up to the big shows dozens of dancers, producers and other will rent homes in the town - all of which ploughs money into the local economy.

Not that there is no expense to the wider taxpayer.

The company receives some £289,000 a year between 2015-18

**Turn to Page 16**



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## Turn from Page 15

from the Arts Council, ploughing the money into its creative process while constantly touring the world with a number of productions, generating ticket receipts as it goes.

It insists it has "paid its way since day one" in terms of renting out the space through the Ashford Leisure Trust – the organisation which runs the Stour Centre site on behalf of the council.

And certainly the council is a keen supporter with its leader Gerry Clarkson speaking of the town's "pride" in hosting the company.

Yet while it has big plans – it wants to set up a 'laboratory' uniting various strands of the arts to produce a centre of excellence, Ms Vardimon admits there is a chance it may not remain in the town.

"Our ambition for the future is a cultural hub where different disciplines, art, technology and design can collaborate and explore together; to promote creative study and research.

"I'd hope within two to three years we would be in a position to have that open.

"There are different discussions and plans and no definite decision as to where it would be. We'd like to stay in Kent, hopefully in Ashford, we're talking to different partners about where to locate it."

While unlikely to impact much on townsfolk, its departure would be a big blow to the council, which holds it up as a shining example to other outside investors of the town's broadening appeal as a business location across diverse sectors.

For now though, it is fully focused on continuing to produce compelling



pieces of work – and enhancing its role in the community; even if to many locals the name will mean very little.

Make no mistake, the company is no elaborate youth theatre group. This is dance in its very highest form.

Explains Mr Ross: "Jasmin's name is significant. She's an internationally renowned artist, based here in Ashford. Wherever we go, Asia, Europe further afield, Ashford's name is splashed everywhere. She loves it here. The space is right for her."

In addition to staging and touring major productions it also runs JY2, its education arm.

Each year it holds auditions and hundreds of dancers from around the world try out in a bid to become one of the handful of 16 to 19-year-olds chosen to be trained in an effort to make the transition from talented youngster to professional dancer. It is not for

the faint-hearted. But neither is it something which necessarily is going to be plucking Kent's finest and putting them on the route to success, given the incredible competition for places.

Although it does hope to fire the imagination of many who want to pursue a career in the expressive arts.

"There are no CAT (Certificate for Advanced Training) dance centres in Kent," explains Ms Vardimon, a strong voice and supporter of young talent in the highly competitive industry, "and a lot of the young dancers have to travel to London so potentially by offering something in Ashford to develop and support young people that is one of the key things we want to be able to offer."

Equally as important to it is to be seen as playing a significant role in the local community – and reminding people that it is about much more

than just putting on a show.

"One thing we didn't want to be was a postcode company," explains Ian Ross, "so our education department has gone into the schools and youth clubs and been working at a grassroots level. We have worked very hard to not just perform. We wanted to work in partnership with other organisations and it's been really important to us.

"We've been outwardly facing, working with the likes of Dover Arts Development, the Turner Contemporary, the Creative Foundation, People United, Gulbenkian, Youth Justice and on things like Aspire – building the legacy from the 2012 Olympics.

"We see ourselves as ambassadors.

"Because of what we do we don't perform here, we work in a more developmental way with other groups. The two dancers from Japan and Spain have been doing their own

thing and working with Ashford Youth Theatre, using their space."

It is, like so many arts organisations, keen to remind the taxpayer – who subsidises it – that it is more than just an elite organisation playing to high brow audiences.

The Arts Council funding, Mr Ross says, does not cover the expenses of creating its major productions and the army of people who work on them or the logistics involved in shipping a production around the world.

Thus it is having to look at increasing and enhancing its revenue streams. There is, however, a limit, as he explains.

"We will make the company as self-sustaining as possible, but the arts will always require subsidy. I'll put the business case but argue for investment in the arts."

Certainly the arts will be looking on with keen interest to the chancellor's spending review next month when the government sets out its spending plans. Many would consider the arts an easy target for cuts when so many public services are creaking.

Says Mr Ross: "We are, and always will be, the added value and that applies to all the arts. But I think that's much greater than it once was. It's not just a two-hour performance. We've been charged as a company to take more responsibility but I don't think it's a God given right we receive that money."

And with George Osborne's reputation for cost-cutting is it hopeful existing funding for the sector will stay?

"I have a hope," Ms Vardimon says. Clearly a polished politician to add to her list of talents.

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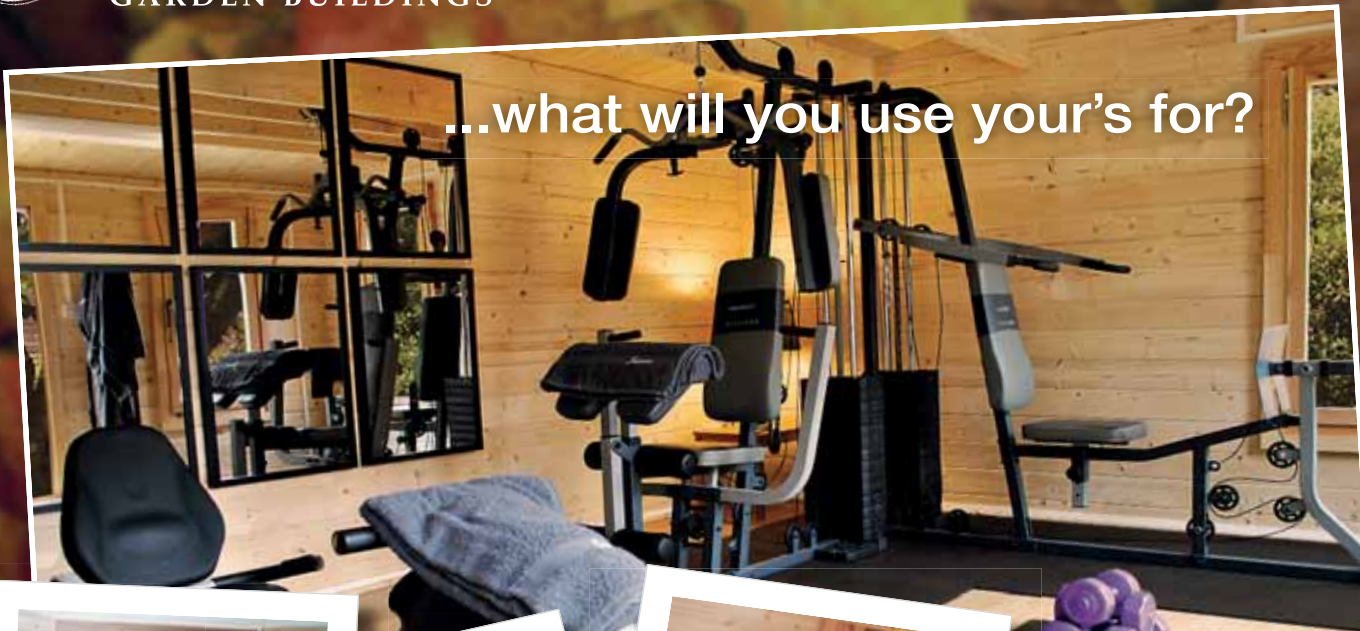
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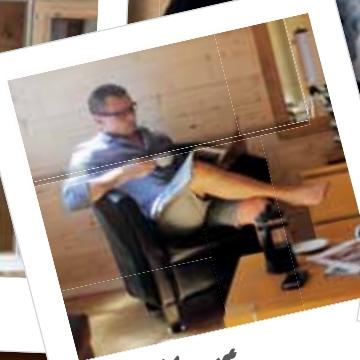
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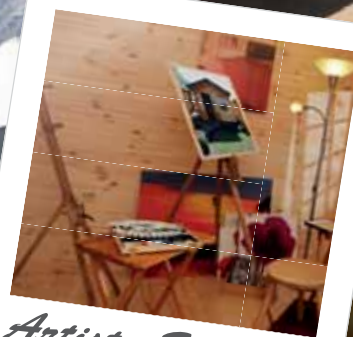
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# We will remember them

**A**CROSS the county, cities, towns and villages will be marking Remembrance Sunday today as young and old gather to remember all those who have fallen in service of crown and country.

Below, we bring you a round up of what is happening, and when, in the larger towns near you – and don't forget to wear your poppy, which raises much-needed funds for the Royal British Legion...

■ **Dartford's** Remembrance Day Service takes place on Sunday at 10.45am, with a procession from Dartford Borough Museum to the War Memorial.

The service, which includes wreath laying and a two minute silence, then follows. After the service, a march past and parade by members of local uniformed organisations completes the commemoration.

■ **In Ashford**, there is a procession from The Church Hall to the Memorial Gardens starting at 10.40am for a service and the laying of wreaths at the war memorial.

Attendees include the mayor of Ashford, the chief executive of Ashford Borough Council, and representatives of the Royal British Legion.

■ **At Higham** in Gravesham on Sunday, there is a Remembrance Service at St John's Church at 9.30am.

■ **Meopham** holds

a Remembrance Service at its war memorial at 2.45pm, which the mayor will attend.

■ **The Gravesend** Remembrance Service is at Windmill Hill Remembrance Gardens in partnership with Royal British Legion and Gravesham council.

There's a parade at 10.30am and service just before 11am attended by the mayor Cllr Michael Wenban.

■ **At The Hill, Northfleet**, the Remembrance Service parade is at 10.30am, and a service just before 11am, attended by the deputy mayor, Cllr Greta Goatley and Gravesham MP Adam Holloway.

■ **Also in Gravesend** on Wednesday, November 11, there is to be a Remembrance Day Service at the Community Square, Gravesend, and a parade with music from 10.30am. A service is being held just before 11am, with the mayor attending.

■ **In Maidstone**, the parade steps off at 10.30am from Week Street to march along the High Street, past the Town Hall, across the Bride Gyratory and to the memorial on The Broadway for the Service of Remembrance.

A service includes the national two minutes silence at 11am and the laying of wreaths in memory of those lost in wars both past and present.

The mayor will lay the first wreath on behalf of the council and the people of Maidstone. After the service, the parade will march back into Maidstone where the mayor will take the salute outside the Town Hall at 11.25am. The council warns of some road closures until 12.30.

■ **At Tenterden**, there will be a service at the War Memorial starting at 10.45 with the town mayor Cllr Pamela Smith laying a wreath.

■ **In Tunbridge Wells** there is a service and parade. The service is at 10.45am at the War Memorial in Mount Pleasant Road. A civic party and dignitaries will leave the main entrance of the Town Hall at 10.45am and process to the War Memorial to be in place at 10.50am when the service will commence.

Wreaths will be laid by the mayor Councillor David Elliott, followed

by the Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, the Royal British Legion president, and local MP Greg Clark.

Following the service the civic party will return to the entrance steps of the Town Hall where the mayor will take the salute from the march past of contingents attending the service and parade.

■ **In Folkestone**, the service and parade starts at 11am at the War Memorial at the top of Road to Remembrance. A civic party will lay a wreath and lead the silence. It will be followed by a service and the town mayor will take the salute outside the Town Hall.

■ **At 9am in Canterbury**, the Sheriff leads councillors at the Royal British Legion Service, held at Christ Church in William St followed by wreath laying service, Memorial Park, Herne Bay.

Then Cllr Ian Thomas, the former lord mayor will lead the parade starting at 10.30am at the War Memorial, Whitstable, and lay a wreath.

Plus the lord mayor and councillors, plus heads of services and VIP guests will attend Remembrance Day wreath laying, at Buttermarket followed by a Cathedral Service and march past for a reception at Tower House.

■ **In Westerham**, the parade leaves the Co-op to St Mary's Church at 10am progressing through the town centre for a service at 10.30am.

Afterwards, the march heads back to the Royal British Legion, Mill Lane. Attending will be town council officials and representatives from various civic societies.

■ **At Sevenoaks**, the service and parade starts at the Vine War Memorial with the service commencing at 10.50 am. It will be led by Rev Canon Angus MacLeay, of St Nicholas Church, who will be assisted by Father Richard Harvey, of St Thomas Church, and David Tyler, of The Vine Evangelical Church.

The Eynsford Concert Band will play at the service and render the Last Post. The mayoral party will leave the Vine Pavilion to arrive at the War Memorial at 10.50am.

■ **At Birchington**, the parade passes through the town starting at Alpha Road car park at 10.45am and on to the War Memorial for a service at 11.30am. At 12.10pm parade to muster in car park at Church House on Kent Gardens to progress towards dispersal point of Albion Road car park at 12.30pm.

■ **In Broadstairs**, the parade

gathers and forms off road by the War Memorial at 10.30am and when instructed can move into the road for the service which is due to end at 11.30am.

■ **Margate** has three separate parades. The adult parade moves from Northdown Road Cliftonville at 10.25am and proceeds to the War Memorial in Trinity Square.

The youth parade leaves the same location five minutes later. And the mayor's parade departs Old Town Hall, Market Plan, Margate at 10.35am and proceeds to the War Memorial.

The service starts at 10.45am and will then go to Market Square.

■ **At Westgate on Sea**, the parade musters at Westgate Bay Avenue at 11.30am and progresses to the War Memorial, Sea Road, at 11.45am for a service at noon. The return is to Christ Church, Westgate Bay Avenue, at 12.20pm.

■ **And in St Peter's**, a parade leaves Green Lane at 10.35am with the service taking place at St Peter's Church, Vicarage Street, at 10.45am. At 11.30am the parade will muster in the churchyard and will progress to Green Lane.

■ **The mayor of Tonbridge** Cllr Owen Baldock takes part in two services. One, at Memorial Gardens, Bradford Street, will also see him joined by the Buergermeister of Tonbridge's twin town, Heusenstamm. The service will start at 10.45am and will be followed by a parade past the town memorial at the Watergate and dismiss in front of Tonbridge Castle.

■ **In West Malling**, events start at 2pm with the mayor taking the salute by the pump in the High Street at 2.10pm as part of the Remembrance Service and parade. From the saluting base the parade continues to St Mary's Church for a 2.30pm Service of Remembrance. Afterwards, there will be a short wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial outside the church.

■ **Snodland** will see deputy mayor Cllr Mark Rhodes and the deputy mayoress Mrs Julie Rhodes attend the Remembrance Day parade and service, leaving Holmesdale Technology College at 2.30pm following the route to Snodland Cemetery where the service will take place.

Following the service, the parade will then proceed to the Devonshire Rooms in Waghorn Road. Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling, Cllr Owen Baldock, says: "It is an honour to play a part in remembering those

who gave their lives in two world wars and in more recent conflicts. Their sacrifices will never be forgotten."

■ **At New Romney** there will be a short civic procession from the Assembly Rooms, Church Approach, to St Nicholas Church at 10.40am. A service starts at 10.45am with a reception in the church following that.

Attending will be the mayor, Councillor Mrs Patricia Rolfe, consort Mr Spencer Rolfe, and Lord and Lady Imbert of New Romney.

■ **In Hythe**, the parade and service will be held at the War Memorial in The Grove, at 10.45 am.

Attending is the mayor, MP Damian Collins, and Major Dennis Bradley. Afterwards, the parade will march down the High Street where the mayor will take the salute at the Town Hall.

■ **In Rochester**, the parade will form at the Blue Boar car park at 10am. At 10.15am it steps off to the High Street past the War Memorial and into Boley Hill to the cathedral. It will be led by the Rochester Pipe Band.

In attendance will be the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the mayor of Medway and guests. At the cathedral, the service starts at 10.40am and at noon, the parade will form up and march to the High Street memorial for a wreath laying at 12.10 with the last post sounded. The 12.30 the mayor will take the salute.

■ **In Dover**, the War Memorial, Biggin Street, hosts a 40-minute service starting at 10.50am after which is the laying of the wreaths.

■ **At Whitfield War Memorial Site**, Manley Close, a service starts at 10:30am.

■ **Sandwich** sees ceremonies at the War Memorial, Market Street, start at 11am with a wreath laying, then at 11.5am there is a civic parade to St Clement's Church for a 11.30am service.

■ **In High Street, Wingham**, the parade starts at 10.30am with a service at St Mary's Church starting at 11am

■ **In Edenbridge**, there is a service at St Peter and St Paul Church at 2.30pm followed by procession to the War Memorial at Edenbridge hospital. The British Legion, town band, councillors and uniformed organisation will be parading and wreaths will be laid.



# A very special year for the National Memorial to the Few

As we pause to think about the many who have lost their lives serving the country, **Chris Murphy** ponders on the sacrifice of 'the Few' in 1940 and the memorial to their bravery in the skies over the county...

**A**S THEY pause for thought during the Remembrance Day services and parades, the trustees of the National Memorial to the Few at Capel-le-Ferne will be reflecting on a very special year.

It was a year that saw the latest addition to a site that has become a place of pilgrimage for those who wish to reflect on the sacrifices made by the heroes of the RAF in 1940.

The Wing is the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust's new visitor centre, opened by Her Majesty the Queen with His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh earlier this year.

Since that wet and windswept March day, close to 50,000 visitors from all over the country – and overseas – have visited this remarkable memorial to the men who protected this country from invasion 75 years ago.

The trustees committed themselves to the project to build The Wing back in 2010, during the 70th anniversary



of the Battle of Britain and their vision was supported wholeheartedly by many of 'the Few' who fought in the skies above Kent.

"We realised during the 70th anniversary what a fantastic resource we had in the veterans, who could hold a

room spellbound with their tales," said trust chairman Richard Hunting CBE.

"But even as we realised what a fantastic job they made of telling the story, we had to acknowledge that they would not be with us forever.

"We knew that the time was coming when they would no longer be here to tell the stories of heroism and sacrifice that mark the Battle of Britain and that we had to come up with an alternative."

The trust made a conscious decision to try to complete the building in time for the 75th anniversary of the Battle – and achieved the target with only a tiny amount of public funding.

"Apart from a £250,000 contribution from the fines levied on the banks as a result of the LIBOR scandal, the entire £3.5m cost of building and fitting out The Wing came from public donations," explained Mr Hunting.

The impressive Wing includes The Scramble Experience, an audio-visual extravaganza that sets out to bring the battle to life.

"We believe that the high-tech, hands-on experience The Wing offers is the next best thing to hearing about the events of 10 July to 31 October directly from one of the Few," said the chairman.

The centrepiece of the Scramble Ex-



perience is a video wall featuring an entirely new film created for the trust to highlight the action and emotions



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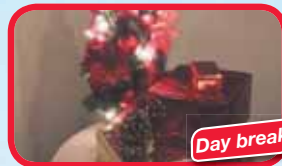
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**THE FEW:** The site recalls the bravery of all those who took part in the Battle of Britain. Prince Michael of Kent (right) with one of the many interactive attractions

mander Bob Foster, who piloted a modern-day mechanical digger to get work under way on The Wing in September 2013.

"Flying a Hurricane was much easier," he admitted as the high-tech digger took chunks out of the grass and sent Wing Cdr Foster bouncing up and down on his seat.

Mr Hunting added: "Sadly Bob did not live long enough to attend the opening of The Wing, but six of his former colleagues were there to meet The Queen and Prince Philip and all of them said how impressed they were with what has been created in their name."

The Scramble Experience is housed in the lefthand 'wing' of the building, designed by Folkestone architectural practice Godden Allen Lawn in the shape of a Spitfire wing, complete with that instantly recognisable angle of the wings.

The other wing houses an education centre which has already been used by a number of schools keen to visit the experience.

The young visitors can compete worksheets supplied by the trust or follow their own lesson plan.

"While the experience is an exciting place to visit, our goal is always to educate current and future generations, and that is why we included a purpose-built education centre as part of The Wing," said Mr Hunting.

"Feedback from schools has been very positive and has reflected the in-

credible interest in the Battle of Britain that we have seen throughout this year."

Attendances at The Wing and at the site as a whole have outstripped expectations and the trust is working hard to make sure that the momentum continues once this 75th anniversary year has drawn to a close.

While The Wing is the newest part of the site it is by no means the most important. The central Memorial, unveiled in 1993 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, is an inspiring statue of a seated airman, looking out over the Channel.

The airman wears an Irvin flying jacket which hides his nationality, his trade and his rank. Is he an officer with half a dozen kills to his name or an NCO from overseas who failed to return from his first sortie? No-one knows – but his contribution is recognised.

The same equal treatment applies to the names of the almost 3,000 men whose names are listed alphabetically on the Christopher Foxley-Norris Memorial Wall without rank or medals.

The wall – which lists the names of all those who took part, including those who are still with us – has famous names like that of Douglas Bader alongside the names of those who are not so well known, but who were just as brave and are equally worthy of respect.

The site also includes life-sized replicas of a Mk1 Spitfire and Mk1 Hurricane, the aircraft most associated with the Battle of Britain – the conflict which changed the course of the war and preserved this island as a springboard for the re-taking of Europe in 1944.

involved in the battle.

Perhaps the best tribute to the impact of the film came from a clearly

emotional Squadron Leader Geoffrey Wellum, who watched it on the day of the royal opening and commented:

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It was another veteran, Wing Com-



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# How county cared for wounded

The Great War claimed the lives of many but it also left many injured and scarred both mentally and physically – **Chris Murphy** looks at how the county played its part in caring for the wounded...

**A**s the horrific reality of the First World War dawned on the public, it was clear the avalanche of wounded troops needed somewhere safe to recuperate and Kent was an obvious choice.

Our proximity to the slaughter and injury of millions of men on the battle fields of the continent meant buildings were suddenly needed in large numbers to be used as hospitals.

These became known as Voluntary Aid Detachments (VAD) – as the toll of wounded became ever larger, these buildings needed to be too.

Helen Basford is the archivist at the Powell Cotton Museum and a member of the Kent Archaeological Society. She is also Kent's leading expert on our role during wartime.

She told us: "The volunteers who worked in these hospitals kept our war effort going. Their dedication was second to none, and the sheer numbers that turned out to help were incredible."

Kent accommodated far more wounded soldiers than any other English county, and by the end of the war our VAD hospitals had cared for 125,000 patients, which was some 30,000 more than anywhere else.

These hospitals were set up in any available space from village halls to mansion homes and even private

houses on occasion.

The War Office did pay a daily allowance for each patient, but most of the money needed for supplies was raised with traditional local community fund raising events like fetes and fairs.

Mrs Basford said: "People also handed over equipment as well as their homes."

"At Quex Park near Birchington, Major Percy Powell Cotton gave his home for use as a hospital and his own domestic staff did the cooking and laundry."

"It started with a telegram arriving in October 1914 saying the house was needed to house 27 wounded Belgian soldiers who arrived just four hours later at the small country house. Eventually, it had a capacity of 45 over three wards."

It certainly had a grand appearance.

Mrs Basford said: "For example, 'A' Ward was set up in the lovely drawing room which was a ground floor Victorian extension to the original house and furnished in oriental style."

"The walls were decorated with panels of Kashmir walnut made especially for the room."

The Powell Cotton family, including three young children, moved out of the main house and into a staff cottage called The Bothy in order to provide maximum space for the wounded.

Mrs Basford said: "Its success rate

was excellent and, over the course of the war, it eventually received a total of 1,241 men including those from Australian, Belgium and Canada, plus of course British troops. Of all those, just three died."

She says Quex Park hospital was staffed by Kent Voluntary Aid Detachment 178 (Birchington) whose commandant was Mrs H B Powell Cotton.

"The medical officer was a local general practitioner, Dr H E Worthington. A matron and a small staff of professional nurses were assisted by the volunteers of the detachment, she said."

"One of the early patients, a Belgian called Camille who was dumb from a thorax wound stayed on as an orderly throughout the war."

"Another volunteer was Australian writer Mary Marlowe who described some of her experiences at Quex in a later autobiography."

It wasn't the only VAD in the area – Thanet had six more in Westgate, Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate and received many patients direct from overseas.

"Major Powell Cotton served as the area's transport officer, assisted by Mr D T Milne of Margate and members of local men's Voluntary Aid Detachments. Through the generosity of five local gentlemen six private cars were converted into ambulances, two of these were Major Powell Cotton's



own vehicles," said Mrs Basford.

The early 19th century house remained in use as a VAD hospital until January 1919.

Mrs Basford said: "Local people were incredibly generous and almost 30 private cars were made available to carry patients who were able to sit."

"The vehicle owners also generously paid all the running expenses from their own pockets."

Transport to the many Kent VADs was key to their success, and at one point there were 160 convoys of 4,069 cot cases and 4,769 sitting cases being moved from local train stations to the various hospitals.

"Logistics must have been a nightmare, but Major Powell Cotton advised the commanding officer, Dover Disembarkation Office, daily of the number of

vacant beds in Thanet," said Mrs Basford.

"The major kept a diary and regularly recorded the time taken to transport all the patients to the local hospitals from the stations."

Other grand homes used included Hayle Place, near Maidstone, which was lent to the war effort by Earl Romney. During its time as a hospital, 2,230 patients passed through its walls until 1919.

Built in the mid 18th century, Lord Romney didn't hesitate in handing over his home to the war effort and it became known as Kent 14. The master bedroom was Ward 6, the drawing room was Ward 2 and the Blue Room became Ward 10.

Staff were swapped with the VAD at nearby Mereworth and the Howard de

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**QUEx:** The wounded. **PICTURES:** Powell-Cotton Museum.

Walden Institute and once more locals were vital in raising funds and providing linens and kitchen supplies and even a croquet set.

Another building used was Great Hermitage in Higham which was run by members of Kent VAD 16, Higham.

It used to be a Jesuit College run by a Belgian fraternity. With the outbreak of war, the premises were handed over. To keep it running, locals handed over bed linen, towels, clothes and other useful items.

Volunteers made enough room initially for 60 patients, but with work, this was enlarged to 100 and incredibly, an operating theatre was added in 1917. It remained active until 30th June 1919.

Bidborough Court in Speldhurst was a grand home that lay empty until it was taken over by Kent 74 as a VAD hospital.

It quickly became a model unit that started work in October 1914 with 50 beds.

—It was a time when anti-

otics were not available so the battle against infections and diseases was ceaseless.

Wounds like those suffered by the men in the trenches had never been seen before, and now volunteers were expected to treat them in makeshift hospital in village halls.

The NHS in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells, said: "Many soldiers had gangrene and trench foot which often meant amputation, there was the effects of gas attacks, trench fever caused by infected lice and, of course, traumatic injuries caused by bullets and exploding shells."

"The constant bombardment and horrendous conditions also led to shell shock – a poorly understood condition for which most military commanders had little patience."

■ **An exhibition is currently being held at the Powell-Cotton Museum at Quex Park about the work of the hospital. For more information, visit [quex-park.co.uk/museum](http://quex-park.co.uk/museum)**

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- Clare House, East Malling
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- Marlipit Court, Edenbridge
- Church House, Edenbridge
- Marlipit Institute, Edenbridge
- The Mount, Faversham
- Rosherville Hotel, Gravesend
- Yacht Club, Gravesend
- Ingress Abbey, Greenhithe
- Knock Hall Lodge, Greenhithe
- Great Hermitage, Higham
- All Hallows, Isle of Grain
- Village Hall, Kemsing
- Club Room, Kemsing
- Fernleigh, Larkfield
- Institute, Lyghe
- Howard-de-Walden, Maidstone
- Hayle Place, Maidstone
- Village Hall, Paddock Wood
- Institute, Pembury
- Wilderness, Seal
- The Firs, Seal
- St. John's Hall, Sevenoaks
- Cornwall Hall, Sevenoaks
- Trinity Hall, Sittingbourne
- The Glovers, Sittingbourne
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- Victoria Hall, Southborough
- Park House, Southborough
- Church House, Shoreham
- Myrtle Cottage, Shoreham
- Shoreham Place, Shoreham
- Shoreham Vicarage, Shoreham
- Workmen's Institute, Strood
- Rochester and Strood Co-operative Society Hall, Strood
- Wesleyan Church, Strood
- Quarry Hill House, Tonbridge
- Bidborough Court, Tunbridge Wells
- Nevill Park, Tunbridge Wells
- Rusthall Girls' School, Tunbridge Wells
- Rusthall Beacon, Tunbridge Wells
- The Elms, Tunbridge Wells
- Park House, Tunbridge Wells
- Calverley Lodge, Tunbridge Wells
- Blackhurst, Tunbridge Wells
- Macquarie, Tunbridge Wells
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- Technical Institute, Ashford
- Swanton House, Ashford
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- Village Hall, Biddenden
- Quex Park, Birchington
- Mansford House, Birchington
- Fairfield, Broadstairs
- Roseneath, Broadstairs
- Abbots Barton, Canterbury
- Dane John, Canterbury
- Vestry Hall, Charing
- Manton House, Charing
- Vestry Hall, Cranbrook
- Drill Hall, Cranbrook
- Manor House, Folkestone
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# Welcome to A Kentish Christmas 2015

**J**UST days after we've all been enjoying temperatures that would not disgrace the middle of summer, it seems strange to be talking about Christmas.

But it would be wise to reflect for a moment on the fact that for Santa Claus, life has been very different over recent weeks.

Not for him strolling around the garden in T-shirt and shorts soaking up the rays, enjoying abnormally high temperatures.

Rather, up in the snowy Arctic wonderland that he is fortunate enough to call home, he has been busy preparing for the annual delivery of presents that helps make Christmas such a beautiful time.

Of course Santa loves nothing more than handing out gifts to eager-eyed youngsters, but there is something else that makes his visit to the Garden of England even more special... A Kentish Christmas.

Our extraordinary guide to everything that is so delightful about Yuletide has become something of a tradition in these parts, but we're happy to let Santa in on the secret!

Anyway, that's enough from us. It's time to let you get on with savouring every word of A Kentish Christmas.

And if you do bump into Santa while he's enjoying his sherry and mince pies, do, of course, give him our very best wishes.

Happy Christmas everybody, we hope that you enjoy A Kentish Christmas.



## Blurb

### Dickensian Christmas Craft Day

Mon 21 Dec | 10am – 4pm | Ages: 8+

Join us for a Dickensian Christmas Craft day here at Trinity Theatre. Try your hand at weaving a Christmas wreath, painting dough ornaments and sewing a Christmas stocking for someone special. Get into the spirit of Christmas the old fashioned way.

**£40 (1 day)**

# Christmas at Bouverie Place

## Christmas Family Fun Day

Saturday 14 November 11am to 4pm

A fun, jam packed day full of entertainment from the Christmas stage. Special guests Decibellas from the X Factor will be joining us together with James Sherwood and a host of entertainment!

- Decibellas from the X Factor
- Luke Potter
- Rock Choir
- Chloe Hackett Dancers
- Talent Show Winners
- Cast of Aladdin Panto
- LCA Performing Arts
- Saltwood Church Handbell Ringers
- Face of Shepway Girls
- SANTA!



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# It's going to be a classic year for pantomime... oh yes it is!

With something for everyone – fun for kids and innuendo and in jokes for adults – Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a panto... here's our guide to what county has to offer...

**Molly Kersey**

[molly.kersey@archant.co.uk](mailto:molly.kersey@archant.co.uk)

**F**OR many, Christmas is not complete until they enjoy an outing to the pantomime with their family or friends.

This year there is a huge variety of shows on offer throughout the county, from Cinderella to Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

And with performances beginning in the coming weeks and running until early January, there is plenty of time to visit your local theatre and see them performed on stage.

Pantomime remains as popular as ever, with its anarchic mish-mash of drama, comedy, music and double entendre delighting audiences every year.

A number of familiar faces will be popping up in this year's productions, including *EastEnders* star Shane Richie, who will be taking on the title role in *Dick Whittington*, and the star of CBBC show *Tracy Beaker*, Dani Harmer, who will be taking on the role of *Cinderella*.

Here is our guide of some of the pantomimes in the area that you can enjoy this year...

■ **The Orchard Theatre, Dartford:** *Dick Whittington* features *EastEnders* actor Shane Richie, who will take on the title role.

The show will be running from December 12 to January 3, 2016.

For more information or to book tickets visit [www.orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk) or call the ticket office on 01322 220000.



■ **The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury:**

Family pantomime *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, featuring *EastEnders* actress Rita Simons and CBeebies star Phil Gallagher, will be performed this year.

The show runs from November 27 to January 10, 2016.

For more details call the box office on 01227 787787 or visit [www.marlowetheatre.com](http://www.marlowetheatre.com).

■ **Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells:**

*Cinderella* will be making its way to the town this Christmas.

The star of CBBC's *Tracy Beaker*, Dani Harmer, will be taking on the role of *Cinderella*.

She will be joined on stage by *EastEnders* star Louise Jameson, who will

play the Fairy Godmother, and Jamie Rickers as Buttons.

The show runs from December 11 to January 3, 2016.

To book, visit [www.assemblyhall-theatre.co.uk](http://www.assemblyhall-theatre.co.uk) or call the box office on 01892 530613.

■ **Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone:** Mystical pantomime *Aladdin* will be performed in Folkestone.

It tells the story of poor boy Aladdin, who tries to win the heart of a beautiful princess and defeat the evil Abanazar.

The show runs from December 22 to January 9, 2016.

For more details, visit [www.atgtickets.com/folkestone](http://www.atgtickets.com/folkestone).

■ **Woodville Theatre, Gravesend:** *Robin Hood and the Babes in the Woods*, starring *EastEnders* actor Ricky Norwood as the Sheriff of Nottingham, will be on stage in Gravesend.

The show also stars *B\*Witched*

singers Keavy Lynch, who will play the *Fairy of the Forest*, and Edele Lynch, as the *Witch of the Woods*.

It will run from December 11 to January 3 2016.

To book you can visit [www.woodville.co.uk](http://www.woodville.co.uk).

■ **Churchill Theatre, Bromley:** *Aladdin*, starring British soap award-winning actor Scott Maslin, will be performed in Bromley this year,

Mr Maslin will be playing Abanazar in the show.

He will be joined on stage by Jen Pringle, who will take on the role of *Princess Jasmine*, and Luke Roberts, who will play the title role of *Aladdin*.

*Aladdin* will run from November 27 to January 3, 2016.

To book you can visit [www.atgtickets.com/bromley](http://www.atgtickets.com/bromley).

■ **Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks:**

*Peter Pan* will be on stage at the theatre this year.

The pantomime stars Boyzone singer Shane Lynch, who will be taking on the iconic role of *Captain Hook*.

He will be joined by *EastEnders* actor Jamie Foreman and pop star Ben Ofoed.

The show runs from December 5 to January 10.

To book, call 01732 450175.

■ **Brittania Theatre, Chatham Maritime:**

*Dick Whittington* is the pantomime of choice for Chatham this year.

The show stars S Club 7 singer Tina Barrett, who will play *Fairy Bowbells*, *Hollyoaks* actor Paul Danan and Derek Griffiths.

It will be running from December 12 to January 3.

To book, visit [www.thebritanniakent.com](http://www.thebritanniakent.com).

■ **Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone:** *Peter Pan* will be performed this year, running from December 4 to January 3.

To book, visit [www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk](http://www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk).

■ **Theatre Royal Margate:**

*Aladdin* will be on stage, starring *Coronation Street* actor Danny Young.

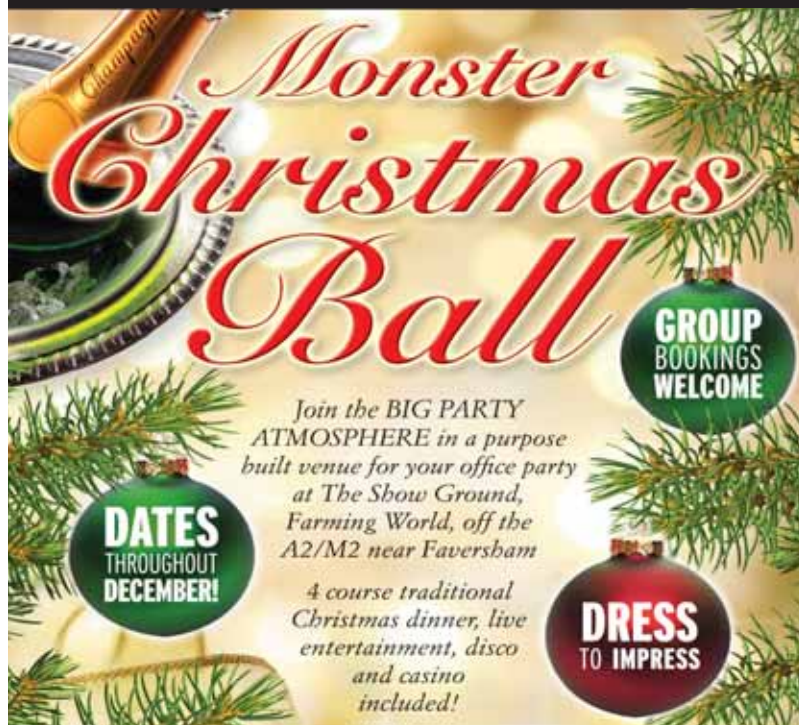
It will run from December 12 to 29.

To book, visit [www.theatreroyal-margate.com](http://www.theatreroyal-margate.com).





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## Folkestone Quarterhouse

## Christmas Party Offer 2015

Are you looking to celebrate Christmas with your colleagues and friends away from the traditional and formal 3 course sit down Christmas meal and disco?

Then take a look at the four themed party nights Quarterhouse has put together for you!

£18 per person

Available at:  
 Quarterhouse Box Office 01303 760 750  
 and at [www.quarterhouse.co.uk](http://www.quarterhouse.co.uk)  
 Quarterhouse, Mill Bay Folkestone CT20 1BN

### 80'S & 90'S DISCO PARTY NIGHT

Friday 4 December  
 7pm - 12.30am

Fork Food by Follies, 7pm - 8.30pm

Boeuf Bourguignon with pilaff rice

or

Mushroom Chasseur with pilaff rice (v)

Apollo Funk Entertainment DJ, 8pm - 12pm

Sing and dance to the music that shaped a whole generation, nostalgia guaranteed!

Dressing up for the era optional -

Prize for Best Dressed on the night!

Full Cash Bar open throughout the evening!

### 60'S & 70'S RETRO PARTY NIGHT

Saturday 5 December  
 7pm - 12.30am

Fork Food by Follies, 7pm - 8.30pm

Hawaiian pineapple chicken

or

Mushroom, spinach pilau with fried onions (v)

Apollo Funk Entertainment DJ, 8pm - 12pm

Let's take you on journey from Rock N Roll to Motown with music and dance from these extraordinary decades.

Dressing up for the era optional -

Prize for Best Dressed on the night!

Full Cash Bar open throughout the evening!

### NOUGHTIES TO NOW PARTY NIGHT

Friday 11 December  
 7pm - 12.30am

Fork Food by Follies, 7pm - 8.30pm

Chicken & apricot tagine served with minted cous cous

or

Aubergine & sweet potato tagine served with minted cous cous (v)

Apollo Funk Entertainment DJ, 8pm - 12pm

Current, fresh, music from the Millennium to Now!

Dress code, Go Glam!

Prize for Best Dancer on the night!

Full Cash Bar open throughout the evening!

### CARIBBEAN CLUB PARTY NIGHT

Saturday 12 December  
 7pm - 12.30am

Fork Food by Follies, 7pm - 8.30pm

Jamaican jerk chicken wings with rice & peas

or

Sweet potato, Callaloo coconut curry with rice & peas (v)

Apollo Funk Entertainment DJ, 8pm - 12pm

What winter blues? With Soca, Reggae & Salsa bringing the sunshine in to December, we're feeling Hot Hot Hot!

Dressing up optional

Prize for Best Dressed on the night!

Full Cash Bar open throughout the evening!

 Creative Foundation

[www.quarterhouse.co.uk](http://www.quarterhouse.co.uk)

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 in his Grotto  
 and see the giant  
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## Globe & Grotto Opening Times November

Sat 21st - 10.30am til 4.30pm

Sun 22nd - 11am til 4pm

Sat 28th - 10.30am til 4.30pm

Sun 29th - 11am til 4pm

## December

Fri 4th - 10.30am til 4.30pm

Sat 5th - 10.30am til 4.30pm

Sun 6th - 11am til 4pm

Thurs 10th - 10.30am til 4.30pm

Fri 11th - 10.30am til 4.30pm

Sat 13th - 10.30am til 4.30pm

Sun 13th - 11am til 4pm

Thurs 17th - 10.30am til 4.30pm

Fri 18th - 10.30am til 4.30pm

Sat 19th - 10.30am til 4.30pm

Sun 20th - 11am til 4pm

Mon 21st - 10.30am til 4.30pm

Tues 22nd - 10.30am til 4.30pm

Wed 23rd - 10.30am til 4.30pm

Thurs 24th - 10.30am til 4.30pm



[www.stgeorgescentre.co.uk](http://www.stgeorgescentre.co.uk)



*A Kentish Christmas 2015*

# Careful planning to ease financial stress of Christmas

The Kent Savers Credit Union has issued some advice to help people make their money last this festive season...

By Molly Kersey

[molly.kersey@archant.co.uk](mailto:molly.kersey@archant.co.uk)

**C**HRISTMAS is a very expensive time for us all. With presents and food to buy, many find the costs mounting as the festive season hits.

But some careful planning can help to ease the financial stresses that many of us feel at this time of year.

The Kent Savers Credit Union is offering short-term financial help to its members this Christmas, to help them cover the costs and ease the pressure that family budgets might face.

It is estimated that families usually spend some £1,000 over the festive season, with some turning to pay day lenders or using credit cards to meet these high costs.

However, the Save as you Borrow scheme from Kent Savers Credit Union means that those who take out a loan repay a little more each month on top of their loan repayment, which is paid directly into a savings account.

That saving account can then be used toward the cost of Christmas next year and reduce the need for further borrowing.

Chairman of the Kent Savers Credit Union, Martin Kingman, said: "We believe it is vital to help people to get into the saving habit, which is especially hard for those on low incomes and with existing debts.

"We also know how tough it can be at Christmas for those in debt. Our Save as you Borrow scheme provides instant credit to clear debts or pay for Christmas this year and ensures a little is put aside each week to help lessen the need for further borrowing for next Christmas.

"Typically, a Save as you Borrow account costing £41 per week provides £1,000 instant credit to pay off existing loans and accumulates



**ADVICE:**  
Martin  
Kingman



£1,000 savings in the account after 52 weeks at 25.9% APR representative, which compares well with many credit card and over-

draft rates, and pay-day lenders and loan sharks."

**For more information you can email [info@kentsavers.co.uk](mailto:info@kentsavers.co.uk).**

North & West

**TICKETS SELLING FAST!**

# SHANE RICHIE

as Dick Whittington



## Dick Whittington

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KENT'S BIGGEST HITS



# Chocolate treats for this Christmas season

Many of us like to overindulge in sweet treats over the festive season. Hotel Chocolat has compiled a guide to the best chocolates to buy for yourself or your loved ones over the holidays...

**F**OR a number of people, one of the best parts of Christmas is getting to sample some delicious food.

With many tucking into a traditional Christmas dinner and plenty of snacks lying around the house, it has become a well-loved part of the Christmas season for a number of households.

If you have a sweet tooth, or you are buying a present for someone who does, there are many festive-themed chocolates on offer.

From chocolate wreaths to festive chutney, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Here is a list of what is available to buy this year.



**RATHER LARGE CRACKER**  
£.36

A BRILLIANT centrepiece for Christmas gatherings, with 12 party hats, jokes and 40 chocolates - including meltingly soft pralines, festive truffles, mellow caramels and much more.

**WINTER DESSERTS SLEEKSTER**  
£27

this box consists of 27 chocolates, which are a variety of festive flavours.



**GINGERBREAD SPREAD**  
£6

HOTEL Chocolat's award-winning chocolate spread, which has been warmed with gingerbread, to give it a new twist for the festive season.



**LIVE BAND!**

**S CLUB 7'S TINA**  
as Fairy Bowbells

**PAUL DANAN**  
as Captain Swashbuckle

**DEREK GRIFFITHS**  
as King Rat

**JOE TRACINI**  
as Idle Jack

**DAVID PHIPPS-DAVIS**  
as Sarah the Cook

**Dick Whittington**

**BRITANNIA THEATRE CHATHAM MARITIME**

**WWW.CHATHAMMARITIMEPANTO.COM 12 DEC 2015 - 3 JAN 2016 BOX OFFICE 0844 858 6656**



**AVAILABLE** in large size (450g) for £20 and small size (100g) for £7.

THESE chocolates are alcohol-free and they are suitable for vegans. THEY consist of a centrepiece of rare Madagascan 72 per cent dark chocolate in a seasonal crunch of Piedmont hazelnuts, Marcona almonds and South African raisins.



### SPICED APPLE AND COCOA NIB CHUTNEY

£5

A unique chutney made with Granny Smith apples, grapes, cinnamon, ginger with a dash of golden rum, brandy and high-quality roasted cocoa nibs.



### CHRISTMAS BAUBLES

£7

WHILE you are putting your baubles on the Christmas tree this year, why not indulge in some that are made out of chocolate? HOTEL Chocolat is offering a collection of seven beautiful Christmas baubles, which have been transformed into magical chocolate truffles.



### THE CHRISTMAS WREATH

£42

THIS seasonal box consists of 40 Christmas chocolates, including one festive wreath and two grand snowflakes.



### GINGERBREAD DRINKING CHOCOLATE

£10

AS temperatures start to take a dip many people will be looking forward to getting home and warming up with a hot drink. THIS hot chocolate drink contains a hint of warming gingerbread spice.



Come together this festive season

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<b>The Charles Dickens</b> £59.95 Per Person Tel: 01843 603 040 Email: charlesdickens@thorleytaverns.co.uk
<b>The Oak Hotel/Restaurant</b> £59.95 Per Person Tel: 01843 583 686 Email: oakreception@thorleytaverns.co.uk
<b>The Captain Digby</b> £61.95 Per Person Tel: 01843 867 764 Email: digby@thorleytaverns.co.uk
<b>The Tartar Frigate</b> £67.50 Per Person Tel: 01843 862 013 Email: tartarfrigate@thorleytaverns.co.uk





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# This Christmas treat little ones to some high quality, classic toys

Research has shown that the popularity of traditional children's toys has been increasing. Here are some that are available in stores near you this year...

**F**OR those shopping for children this year, the time is coming to start scouting online or exploring shops to try and find the perfect present.

There is a huge amount of choice when it comes to selecting a gift for your little ones, and new findings have shown a trend in more retro presents.

Research has shown that an interest in more traditional toys has been growing among children over the last year.

In 2014 the British toy industry grew by more than 4.4 per cent - a growth which was fuelled by the demand for traditional toys including building sets, dolls and arts and crafts.

Meanwhile, the demand for 'youth electronics' remained flat over the same period.

Aldi has launched a new range of wooden toys to tie in with this increase in demand.

The new range features traditional toys and games, the popularity of which shows no sign of slowing down as Christmas approaches, and includes craft sets, wooden toys, puzzles and books.

Tony Baines, joint managing director of corporate buying at Aldi, said: "We're expecting strong customer interest in wooden toys this year and as such have extended our range of Christmas gifts - in stores from October through to Christmas Eve.

"Parents needn't spend a fortune on traditional toys, at Aldi, quality products can be purchased for a lot less than they may think, giving parents every opportunity to tick all the items off their little ones' wishlists."

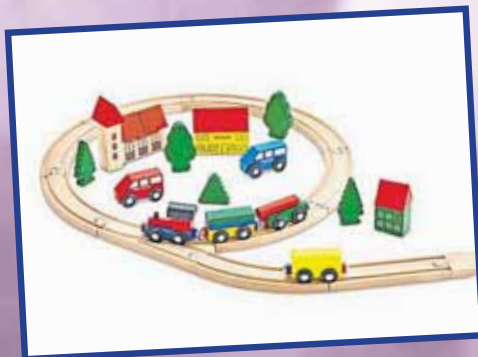
And toyologist Peter Jenkinson says that these more traditional toys can have huge benefits for children.

"High quality, classic toys stand the test of time and have a significant positive impact on children's development - meaning they offer real value for families," he said.

"It's great to see these toys making a comeback and they'll probably remind many of today's parents and grandparents of toys they used to play with."

## EMULATING ADULT BEHAVIOUR

WOODEN toys, such as Aldi's Wooden Dolls House (£27.99), are great starting points from which children can learn to emulate adult behaviour of 'playing home'. As children engage in imaginative play, they are able to build real-life skills.



## EDUCATIONAL

TOYS like the Wooden Jigsaws (£6.99) help assist in motor skill development and are excellent for hand-eye coordination. Building wooden towers or creating certain patterns allows children to visually understand how shapes work together. In addition to this, wooden toys are easy to clean and more tactile than their plastic counterparts.

## ROLE PLAY

THE robust and durable nature of wooden toys allow children to be more explorative and imaginative as they role play. Children are also responsible for making sound effects and voices for the toys, where electronic features can sometimes interrupt a child's thinking process.

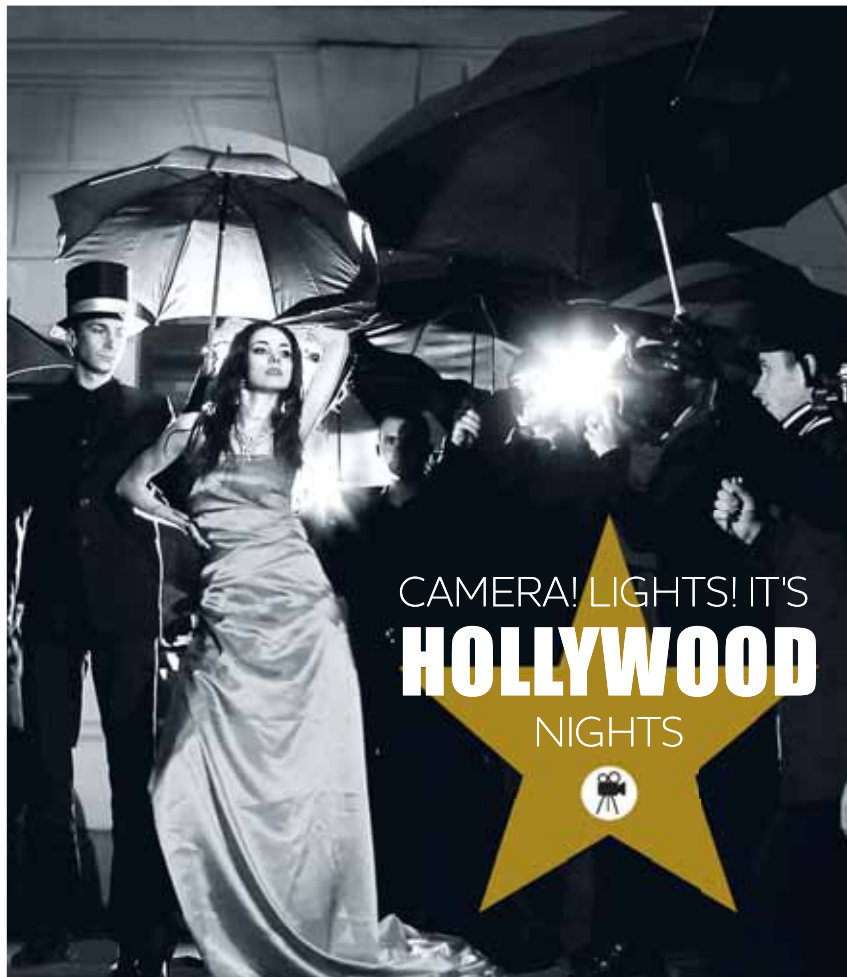
## TRENDY AND TIMELESS

THE simple, visually-appealing designs of wooden toys mean they look aesthetically pleasing when out on display, so parents aren't as eager to hide them away. They also require far less adult instruction and intervention than their plastic or electronic counterparts.



## COLLABORATIVE PLAY AND CREATIVITY

STARTING at a young age, children can enjoy the benefits of collaborative play with friends as wooden toys offer much more scope to use their imaginations, as opposed to sticking to strict instructions. Wooden toys create more of a 'blank canvas', allowing children to be more creative and inventive during playtime.



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# Stocking fillers raising money for a good cause

A sister design team has created some fundraising Christmas presents for a cause close to their hearts...

**Molly Kersey**

molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

**S**OON people will be beginning their Christmas shopping, searching for the perfect gifts for their friends, family and loved ones.

This year, why not buy a gift which could also help to raise money for a good cause?

Design company Martha & Hepsie, run by two sisters, have teamed up with the British Skin Foundation to create a number of Molly the Mole items.

This is part of the charity's skin cancer campaign It Takes 7, and aims to get people to check the moles on their skin regularly, and to get them examined by their GP or dermatologist if there is any cause for concern.

The campaign is raising money to help fund research into all types of skin cancer.

The perfect stocking filler, 10 per cent of the money made from each sale of the Molly Mole items will be donated to skin cancer research.

This is a cause that is close to their hearts, as their cousin is fighting skin cancer.

Here are the items that they have on offer.

**NOTEBOOK**  
£5

A great present for those who will be continuing their work or education after the Christmas period. This patterned notebook could be great for staying organised as the New Year commences.



**PRINT**  
£14

IF you are looking for a nice new picture to hang on your wall or put on your mantlepiece, look no further.



**COASTER SET**  
£14

AS everyone shelters from the cold weather this winter, balance your hot drink of choice on one of these adorable coasters.



**WRISTBAND**  
£2

ALL the money from this sale goes straight to skin cancer research, and it is a great present for members of all the family. Why not wear one to raise money for a good cause?



**MIRROR**  
£4

FITTING easily into a pocket or bag, this little mirror could come in handy on days or evenings out.



Malawi • South American cichlid • Central American cichlid • Guppy + other live barbers • Tetra  
Rasbora • Angelfish • Dwarf Angelfish • Lionfish • Foxface • Clownfish • Damselfish • Chromis  
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For more about Martha & Hepsie or to purchase items listed above visit [www.marthaandhepsie.com](http://www.marthaandhepsie.com). To find out more about the British Skin Foundation campaign, visit [www.ittakesseven.org.uk](http://www.ittakesseven.org.uk).



# Christmas presents for green-fingered gardeners

It is not surprising that there are so many keen horticulturalists living in the Garden of England. And with Christmas on the horizon, many people will be looking to find the perfect present for the keen gardener in their lives. And, writes **Hannah Stephenson**, this task might be a lot easier than you thought. Here is a list of what's available this Christmas...



**A**S shops are already adorned with baubles, tinsel, fairy lights and mistletoe in preparation for the Christmas rush, come in from the garden for a few minutes to consider what your gardening friends and family might like under the tree this festive season.

Every year, garden centres turn themselves into sparkling grottos, offering all sorts of gifts ranging from practical tools to aromatic room fragrances, seeds in beautiful packaging, deluxe outdoor

clothing, bird boxes, hedgehogs houses and other gardening paraphernalia.

So, what's new?

The gardener who needs somewhere to put his secateurs and other small tools while he's working should check out Burgon & Ball's new Poc-kit utility belt, a comfortable belt with waterproof



neoprene pockets, which will house small tools such as a pocket knife and plant labels, and has its own twine dispens-

ing eyelet. Available in a range of colours, £14.95, from [www.burgonandball.com](http://www.burgonandball.com)

Those who want to house larger tools, such as forks and trowels, may prefer a full-size gardening apron. Bag a bargain with the Esschert Design short textile Garden Apron, which is full of pockets and pouches for your tools. Currently priced at £7.20, from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk).

If you are a Havaiana flip-flop fan in the summer, you may



want to take a look at the bright and beautiful rain boots those Brazilian maestros have come up with in firework brights or classic winter shades, ranging from black to super pink, in full length or mid-calf. Perfect for the

## Christmas Fayre Lunches

There is no better place to have lunch with the office or catch up with old friends than the Coniston Kitchen restaurant, known for its mouth-watering food and friendly service. Enjoy a 2 or 3 course lunch with table service, Monday to Saturday.

Sittings from 12pm - 2pm  
Lunch Menu: 2 courses £16.95 | 3 courses: £19.95

### Starters

CHICKEN LIVER PATE Fruit chutney, balsamic dressing  
CHILLED MELON Berry coulis, mixed berry compote  
ROASTED TOMATO AND RED PEPPER SOUP Basil pesto

### Mains

ROLLED BREAST OF TURKEY Filled with sage and cranberry stuffing, served with traditional trimmings  
RED WINE BRAISED BLADE OF BEEF Thyme roasted potatoes  
GRILLED SALMON FILLET Caper crushed potatoes, chive and lemon cream sauce  
ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH, GOATS CHEESE AND SPINACH WELLINGTON Roasted new potatoes, cumin cream sauce

### Desserts

TRADITIONAL CHRISMTAS PUDDING Brandy sauce  
DUO OF CHOCOLATE MOUSSE Orange curd  
VANILLA CHEESECAKE Winter berry compote

## New Year's Eve Gala

Celebrate in style and enjoy a fabulous 5 course meal, then dance the night away. So get your glad rags and your dancing shoes on and set the New Year off with a bang.

Bar from 6pm - 1am : Sit down at 8pm : Disco closes at 1.30am

### CANAPÉS ON ARRIVAL

#### Starters

CHAMPAGNE POACHED SALMON TERRINE Caper lemon dressing  
LEEK, CHIVE AND MONTGOMERY'S CHEDDAR TART  
Red onion marmalade

#### Mains

HONEY GLAZED DUCK BREAST  
Spring onion crushed potatoes, roasted plum jus  
BLACK PEPPER HERB CRUSTED FILLET OF BEEF  
Caramelised onion layered potatoes, baby vegetables, peppercorn sauce  
WILD MUSHROOM AND BUTTERNUT SQUASH OPEN LASAGNE  
Garlic and herb crouton

#### Desserts

DARK CHOCOLATE AND ORANGE BROWNIE  
Grand Marnier syrup, caramelised segments  
WINTER BERRY ARTIC ROLL Mulled berry compote

#### Cheese Selection

BLUE CHEESE, MATURE CHEDDAR, GOAT'S CHEESE & BRIE  
Grapes, cheese biscuits, spiced fruit chutney



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KITCHEN

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Web: [www.conistonhotelkent.com](http://www.conistonhotelkent.com)





garden and so comfortable. Prices start at £45, from [www.havaianas-store.com](http://www.havaianas-store.com)

For the gardener who likes all-in-one gizmos, a really useful MultiTool Garden from Wilkinson Sword may be just the job. Made from black anodised aluminium and stainless steel, it boasts 14 different functions, including pruner, a knife, spanners, screwdriver, a saw, can opener, bottle opener and a file. Not only does it have a solution for all outdoor situations, it is also small enough to fit in your pocket. £17.99 at [www.wilkinsonsword-tools.co.uk](http://www.wilkinsonsword-tools.co.uk)

There are so many bird boxes on the market, but if you want a stylish version for your loved one, the Posh Bird Box is beautifully hand-crafted with eye catching scalloped edges. Handmade from high-quality redwood timber, the cedar shingle roofs are removable and easy to clean. The boxes are available in a range of colours - standard



colours £35, or bespoke colours for £50 inc post and packaging, from [www.theposhshedcompany.co.uk](http://www.theposhshedcompany.co.uk).

Personalised items often go down well with gardeners, from flora and fauna calendars to aprons, shed signs and

mugs. Personalised wooden boxes to house gardening bits and pieces are available (from £24.99) from [www.gettingpersonal.com](http://www.gettingpersonal.com), while Christmas dinner and home-grown veg could be served from silver-plated vintage vegetable serving spoons with a quirky engraving on the spoon. £27.99, from [www.ijustloveit.co.uk](http://www.ijustloveit.co.uk).

Alternatively, create your own hamper of gardening goodies, including unusual plant labels and seeds, decorative seed tins (I like The Perfect for Pollinators Flower Collection and Award Winning

Vegetable Collection comprising 10 packets of Johnsons seeds in a high quality reusable tin, £14.99, [www.johnsons-seeds.com](http://www.johnsons-seeds.com)), colourful gardening twine and pretty notebooks. Add some pampering items and you're on to a winner for her. These might



Oil will keep the scent of the garden wafting long after the sun has gone down. £48, for stockists visit [www.jomalone.co.uk](http://www.jomalone.co.uk)

Of course, the most ardent gardeners will make their own jams and chutneys from home-grown produce, but what they may not be able to make themselves is a festive Spiced Apple & Cocoa Nib Chutney from Hotel

Chocolat, featuring top-quality roasted cocoa nibs, Granny Smith apples, grapes, cinnamon, ginger with a dash of rum and brandy. £5, for stockists, visit [www.hotelchocolat.com](http://www.hotelchocolat.com)

With the craze in adult colouring, you could slip in Johanna Basford's Secret Garden Journal, in which the recipient can write notes on flora and fauna, as well as colour in 72 garden-based illustrations. £12.95, published by Laurence King on November 16, from [www.waterstones.com](http://www.waterstones.com)

Providing a good Christmas for gardeners could prove an easier job than you thought.



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# The perfect gift boxes for wine lovers this Christmas

Vinopolis is offering gift boxes this festive season, aimed at being the ideal present for wine lovers whether they are fans of reds, whites or a combination of both...

**D**O you like to relax with a nice glass of wine over the festive period?

Do you know someone who enjoys wine, and would appreciate some as a Christmas present?

Vinopolis have some gift sets available which might just be what you're looking for.

Vinopolis is aiming to bring their flair for fine wines into your home this festive season, with a collection of gifts to delight even the toughest critics.

With a range of fabulous gift boxes on offer for busy bees who need a simple, elegant and timeless solution to any gifting dilemma, Vinopolis are giving customers the chance to enjoy the essence of Vinopolis at home with out carefully selected range of home wines.

There are three different sets to choose from, ranging from £32 to £59 in price, not including postage.



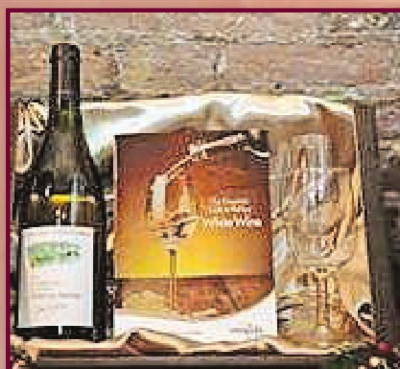
## **COMBINED GIFT SET**

£59 (EXCLUDING POSTAGE)

CAN'T decide on which wine to choose for someone?

SAVE yourself the double guessing and select the duo Christmas box.

THIS box includes a bottle of Domaine Du Barres and a bottle of Les Abeilles de Colombo, four tasting glasses and the Vinopolis essential guides to tasting red and white wine.

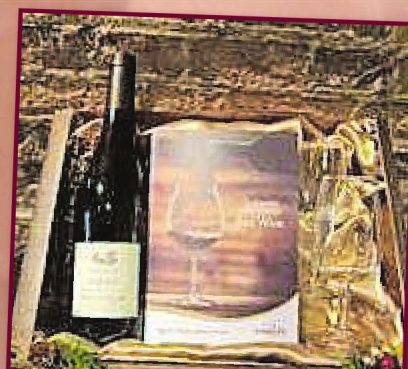


## **WHITE WINE GIFT SET**

£32

TREAT a white wine lover who is looking to discover more about their palate.

INCLUDED in this gift set is a bottle of Les Abeilles de Colombo, two tasting glasses and the Vinopolis essential guide to tasting white wine.



## **RED WINE GIFT SET**

£32 (EXCLUDING POSTAGE)

THIS is the perfect present for all wine lovers.

INCLUDED in this Christmas box is a bottle of Domaine Du Barres, two tasting glasses and the Vinopolis essential guide to tasting red wine - a small, interactive wine-tasting booklet which is designed to accompany the present and help people make the most of their gift.



**For all your Christmas  
meat and cheese, visit  
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**Opening Times**

**Monday: 08:00-13:00**

**Tuesday - Friday: 08:00-17:30**

**Saturday: 07:30-17:00**

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**www.farmviewbutchers.co.uk**



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**New Year's Eve  
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**STARTER**

**Broccoli & Stilton Soup**

homemade soup served with garlic croutons

**Grilled Asparagus & Artichoke**

served with mixed salad & dressing

**Homemade Chef's Fishcake**

mixed smoked salmon & haddock served  
with Thai chilli dressing

**CHAMPAGNE SORBET**

**MAIN**

**Surf & Turf**

Filet of beef & king prawns served with  
fondant potato & homemade rich gravy

**Traditional Roast Turkey**

with sage & onion stuffing, pigs in blankets,  
Yorkshire pudding, honey roast parsnips  
& homemade rich gravy

**Herb Crusted Fillet of Cod**

served with new potatoes, spinach & white  
wine sauce

**Chef's Goat Cheese Tart & Onion Marmalade**

served with rocket leaf & balsamic dressing

**DESSERTS**

**Christmas Pudding**

served with brandy sauce or custard

**Champagne & Raspberry Torte**

**Vanilla Cheesecake**

**A Selection of Cheese & Biscuits**

**Coffee & Mince Pies**

**£49.95  
per person**

**Packages**

**FESTIVE DRINKS PACKAGES**

**4 Bottles of House Wine £55.00**

(Any combination of red, white & rosé)

Plus 2 bottles of mineral water or a jug of orange juice.

**Bottled Lager Package £25.00**

10 bottles of 330ml guest lager

These special drinks packages are only available  
on a pre-order basis before your event.

Discounted pre-order wine list available,  
please ask for details.

**OVERNIGHT PACKAGES**

**Package 1: 2 Night Package**

**from 30th December**

2 course à la carte meal in the Hythe Sea Lounge on  
the first night, full English breakfast in the morning.  
On 31st December enjoy our leisure facilities during  
the day & then in the evening celebrate New Year's  
Eve in style in our Lukin Suite with a 4 course  
dinner & entertainment until 1am. £189.95 per  
person sharing a standard twin/double.

**Package 2: 1 Night**

**from 31st December**

Celebrate New Year's Eve in style in our Lukin Suite  
with a 4 course dinner & entertainment until  
1am, full English breakfast the following morning.  
£122.45 per person sharing a standard twin/double.  
Packages must be pre-booked. A 20% deposit is  
due on booking & then the balance is due at the  
end of October. For bookings made after the end  
of October the full amount will be due on booking.

For full terms & conditions please speak to  
our events or reservations team.

**Terms & Conditions**

Terms & conditions apply and payment of deposit  
constitutes your acceptance of these terms.  
Please ask for full details.

£10.00 per person non refundable deposit is required  
within 14 days of booking, failure will result in booking  
being released. (Christmas Day & New Year's Eve  
events require a £25 deposit per person).

Free place available for organisers of parties over  
20 (this is only applicable to Party Nights  
& Lunches, Christmas Day Lunch & New  
Year's Eve are excluded from this offer)

Final balances due on all events 1 month prior  
to event. Groups of ten or more persons  
must pre-order & provide their menu  
choices 1 month prior to event.

Overnight accommodation (excludes New Year's Eve)  
available from £70.00 per twin/double including breakfast.  
Singles from £60.00 including breakfast. Non attendance  
of persons will result in loss of monies paid - no refunds  
or discretionary allowances will be made.

**How to find us**

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# I'm pretty sure Christmas without...

Give your festive season an Italian twist with these delicious seasonal food and drink treats from Carluccio's...



**T**HIS year, Carluccio's throughout Kent have taken all the work out of Christmas shopping.

The range of seasonal products, made exclusively for Carluccio's for Christmas, includes 12 must-have festive essentials that will be all you need sitting under your tree this year.

From the hero products that make Christmas, Christmas, through to regional specialities and definitive dinner table staples, each has been identified as being quintessentially Italian and the very best of its kind.

Whether looking for gifts for someone special, thank-you gifts for teachers and colleagues or something for your own Christmas table, Carluccio's has it covered.

**THE Magnificent 12:** It simply wouldn't be Christmas without...

## *Carluccio's Gift Boxes*

**Prosecco e Gianduiotti (£26.95)** – a celebratory gift box filled with gold foil-wrapped gianduiotti, traditional boat-shaped chocolates full with the best local hazelnuts, and accompanied with a bottle of prosecco.

**Pasta e Sughi (£29.95)** – a gift box packed with a week's worth of pasta with a selection of seven of Carluccio's most popular varieties. A fabulous foodie gift for anyone passionate about pasta.

**Lui e Lei (£23.95)** – for him, for her, for you; no Italian home is without this classic double act of oil and balsamic vinegar.

**Vin Santo e Cantucci (£25)** – a fourth-generation hilltop baker in Tuscany makes this 100 year-old cantucci recipe using Italian almonds and local honey whilst the Vin Santo comes from the vineyards below.

## *Chocolate and sweet treats*

**Chocolate Grissini (£12.95, 350g)** – always a sell-out; these savoury dark chocolate breadsticks are only sold by Carluccio's at this time of year by fifth-generation chocolatiers.

**Clemente in Camicia (£16.95, 300g)** – bursting with juice, the clementines are enveloped in two layers of dark chocolate.



**Fichi Ricoperti (£9.95, 180g)** – hand-woven baskets are made throughout the year in a quiet, sleepy Calabrian village. Local dried figs are baked and hand-stuffed with orange peel and walnuts before being lovingly placed in their mini manger.

**Torrone (£6.95, 110g)** – A special treat enjoyed across Italy every Christmas, Carluccio's is made with Sicilian pistachios and Puglian almonds by torrone master Nazareno, just outside Naples.

## *Unashamedly Festive...*

This fabulously festive and joyous range has something for everyone with advent calendars, chocolate bars, table decorations and stocking fillers. Here are some of the highlights:



**Buon Natale Advent Calendar (£11.95, 230g)** – countdown to Christmas with an advent calendar featuring a foil-wrapped chocolate character behind each colourful window.

**Albero Massimo (£4.95, 130g)** – a Christmas pyramid bursting with festive chocolate characters; makes a great table setting of gifts for youngsters and the young at heart.

**Albero di Cioccolato (£8.95, 200g)** – individually hand-decorated milk, white and dark chocolate trees.

**Gianduja Chocolate Bars (£3.95, 100g)** – beautifully wrapped in a choice of three equally vibrant prints; purchase all three for a fabulous looking (and tasting) gift.

**Chocolate Coin (£2.50, 90g)** – use the giant coins as unique Christmas table place settings or stuff in a stocking; a selection of smaller coins also available in a net bag (£2.95, 140g).

**Christmas Crackers (£15.95, 6 crackers)** – pure unadulterated fun and filled with two gianduiotti and a quiz complete with a question on Italian food or culture.

**Lingottini (£6.95, 145g)** – rich, dark chocolates with a melting centre in flavours of coffee, amaretti and hazelnut.

## *Cakes and biscuits*

**Panettone Tradizionale (£16.95, 1kg)** – winner of numerous awards, this part bread, part cake from Piemonte is made to an exclusive recipe

using plump fruit, candied peel, natural yeast (from a starter dating back 100 years) and finished with a hazelnut glaze.

**Pandoro (£16.95, 700g)** – Italians have two stars every Christmas; one atop the tree and another in the form of Pandoro taking pride of place in the centre of the table.

**Baci di Dama (£17.95, 875g)** – these Piemonte

biscuits are made with butter, hazelnuts and chocolate with each 'lady's kiss' put together by hand.

**Amaretti (£7.50, 250g)** – Antonio Carluccio remembers the way amaretti tasted as a child, and Carluccio's has tracked down the same local, family-owned bakery to ensure a traditional, authentic taste.

**All of Carluccio's products are available in-store, or shop online at [www.carluccios.com](http://www.carluccios.com) for next-day delivery.**



# Treat someone special to a 007 gadget this Christmas

Here are six of the best 007-style gadgets, which could make a great present for someone special this Christmas...

**W**HEN Spectre was released late last month, many people flocked to the cinema to see the latest adventures of James Bond.

With Christmas just around the corner, a 007-themed present could be perfect for fans of the iconic films.

Here are six of the best gadgets on offer this year...



## **IHAT MP3 HEADPHONE HAT**

£9.95

AVAILABLE from [www.prezzybox.com](http://www.prezzybox.com)

AS autumn turns to winter, you will be tempted to reach for your hat. But if you listen to music as you stroll around, it can be a tough decision - stretch your hat over your headphones or go without your precious tunes? That's where this beanie hat comes in handy. To passersby you're just wearing a hat to keep the cold at bay, but actually, on the inside, there are tiny speakers which sit next to your ears so you can listen to your music without ruining your head-topper. Wires run at the back of the hat, so you can plug them into your phone/MP3 player discreetly. One word of caution, the hat is pretty big, so if you've got a small noggin it might not be for you.



## **EKOCYCLE ADA + NIK CAMERA-ENABLED BIKER JACKET**

£800

OK, unless you are as sharp a dresser as Mr Bond you won't be keen to splash out £800 on a jacket but boy, does this take the tagline 'wearable tech' seriously. A beautiful biker jacket (available small, medium, large) which is also eco-friendly, it's made of leather and the less traditional material, plastic bottles. Where the tech comes in is on the little square situated on the breast pocket. Charge it up, turn it on and it will take a photo every 30 seconds. Despite the small size it will store up to 8,000 photos which you can sync to your smartphone using the accompanying app. A real 007-style gizmo!



# Santa Specials

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## The Maze

**Explore the festive maze  
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# THUMBSUP! CLOCK CAMERA RECORDER

£44.99

AVAILABLE from [www.maplin.co.uk](http://www.maplin.co.uk)

IT'S not unusual to find a clock sitting on a mantelpiece, and this one won't look out of place. However, while it tick-tocks away, it also has another hidden function. Motion activated, it has a tiny camera which takes both stills and film footage of what's going on in front of it. If the motion stops, so will the camera (it will go into standby) so your SD card doesn't get full. Once you're ready to look at the footage, use the USB lead supplied to connect it to your PC or Mac. The clock comes with a 4 GB SD card, but you'll want to invest in a larger one.

# Spy Clock



- Records video & sound
- Easy to operate
- Adjustable stand
- Compact operation
- 4GB memory

# DUCK THERMOMETER TOY

£6

AVAILABLE from [www.mylstyears.com](http://www.mylstyears.com)

YOU might not think a rubber ducky is particularly Bond-like - or even a gadget - but this one is! On its belly you'll find a blue circle that will protect your little one from a bath time burn.

Pop the duck into the bath for a minute, take a look at it and if on the circle it says 'HOT' in white letters you'll know you need to add some cold water or let it cool down until the word disappears and it's safe to pop your bundle of joy in the tub. They'll like the duck and you'll like the reassurance of the thermometer.



# POWER PEN

£24.99

AVAILABLE from [www.firebox.com](http://www.firebox.com)

A pen with hidden capabilities must be the best known of all secret agent gadgets, and this one will appeal to modern-day spies. It does of course work as a regular ballpoint pen and for the tablet carriers amongst us, there's a stylus too. However, its real gadgetry is hidden in the middle. Unscrew the pen and you'll find a 700mAh battery at the ready to charge up your phone - it has lightning and micro USB ends for all types of smartphones. When you've used up its power, just connect it via USB to your computer and load it up ready for its next mission. A lovely pocket-sized charger which will definitely impress.



# PLANTRONICS BACK BEAT SENSE STEREO HEADPHONES

£122.87

AVAILABLE from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

THESE wireless headphones look good and come with crystal-clear sound. That's just the beginning, you can connect them to two devices at the same time (via Bluetooth). Ideal if you're watching something on your tablet, but want to receive calls on your phone at the same time. Next, do you hate it when you're in the middle of listening to something, only to be interrupted? Well, the headphones feel your pain. When you lower them from your ears, they will pause the audio so you don't use up battery life unnecessarily, or miss out on your favourite tunes. However, where these headphones really have their Bond moment is on the OpenMic function. No longer will you miss out on vital conversations while tuned into your music. They can pick up on noise around you and play it through the speakers so you'll be able to listen in without other people knowing.



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Christmas & New year  
2015

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Christmas Lunches £25.00 per person  
Christmas Dinners £32.50 per person

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**PHIL GALLAGHER**  
(CBeebies' Mister Maker)



Ben Roddy ★ Lloyd Hollett

# Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs

**THE  
MARLOWE  
THEATRE**

Written and directed by Paul Hendy

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# 'Desert' site sold to energy giant at Dungeness

By Jamie Weir  
jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

**P**OWER giant EDF Energy announced on Tuesday that it was snapping up what has been described as 'Britain's only desert' in Dungeness.

The owner of nuclear power plant Dungeness B which neighbours the site - known as the Dungeness Estate - announced that it had exchanged contracts to buy the area after it was first put on the market back in August.

At the time it was said to be attracting international interest with one insider saying the 'phones were going crazy' as investors flocked to buy a unique area.

It was placed on the market with a minimum valuation of £1.5 million sparking further interest from eager bargain hunters.

But Strutt & Parker, the estate agents tasked with selling the unique property, said it was good to have a buyer already in the area.

Will Whittaker, who oversaw the deal for Strutt & Parker, said: "Despite the great interest generated from around the world, the trustees and Strutt & Parker are delighted to have agreed a sale to a neighbour who is already familiar with and committed to the area."

Billed as a sale of an 'extraordinary and incomparable landscape of international importance' the site's 468 acres form a large chunk of the shingle peninsula which juts out of the county's southern coastline near Lydd.



The railway station and lighthouse weren't a part of the sale, but a number of famous features were.

Of those, the tiny cottage home of famous artist and film director Derek Jarman was included. Mr Jarman died after going into hiding at the coastal retreat in 1994, but the building still attracts many visitors to the area.

Birdwatchers and environmentalists are also keen to seek out the site due to the estate being designated a National Nature Reserve, Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to its importance to the environment.

EDF Energy says it is committed to maintaining the area's unique environment, stating that it will work with the local community and special interest groups to ensure it's managed correctly.

Martin Pearson, station director at Dungeness B, said: "We're delighted to be the purchasers of the estate and want to reassure the community that it is our intention to be a responsible owner of the land."

"Dungeness B has been a huge part of the community for over 30 years and we will, as always, continue to work alongside the local communi-

ty and other local stakeholders.

"We don't have all the detail yet, but rest assured we will continue to manage the land responsibly, taking the needs of local stakeholders and residents into account. Our first priority is to familiarise ourselves more with the estate, and to meet with key local stakeholders including, amongst others, residents, Natural England and Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership. We will then be able to determine in more detail how we manage the estate in line with its special nature."

"We've always worked alongside the local community to preserve and enhance this unique environment and EDF Energy is committed to this."

The company has a solid track record of helping encourage biodiversity, with its Dungeness site picking up the Wildlife Trust's Biodiversity Benchmark Certification.

That was something the Dungeness Estate said was critical for sealing the deal.

Maurice Ede, a trustee for the estate, said: "The family trust that owns the estate was created in 1964. During the trust's tenure, management has been aimed at preserving this unique and spectacular property."

"It is often said that this distinctive and undisturbed landscape is unlike any other part of the United Kingdom. I have known it intimately for 40 years and never fail to be moved by it on my regular visits."

"After the decision was made to sell the estate it was important the purchaser would have the ability, track record and correct intentions of maintaining an estate such as this and we are very happy to be passing that responsibility to EDF Energy."

The company says that legal completion will now take place, with EDF Energy becoming responsible for managing the land only.



**UNIQUE:** The Dungeness Estate is a unique environment in the UK, with a flourishing ecology that includes many migratory birds as well as a number of rare invertebrates. EDF Energy says it will work with partners to conserve the site

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on the proposal for the new Silvertown Tunnel

We're giving you an opportunity to have your say on the proposal for a new tunnel at Silvertown, before a planning application is submitted in Spring 2016.

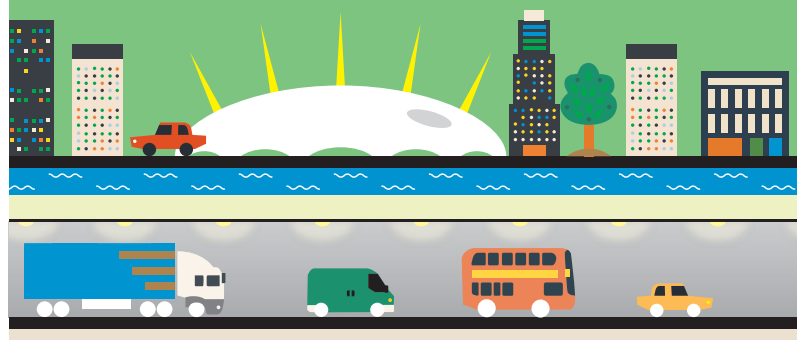
The new tunnel will:

- Reduce queuing at the Blackwall Tunnel by providing a nearby alternative river crossing
- Offer new cross-river bus link opportunities
- Support the creation of new jobs and homes

Our scheme includes a proposal to introduce a charge to use the Blackwall and Silvertown Tunnels. This would help manage traffic-flow and fund the new tunnel.

To find out more please visit [tfl.gov.uk/silvertown-tunnel](http://tfl.gov.uk/silvertown-tunnel)

**The consultation ends 29 November 2015**



**UNDISCLOSED:** EDF says it won't tell how much it paid for the estate, but it's unlikely to be less than £1.5 million

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## Women Seeking

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**SLIM** female GSOH, 53, Likes walking, pub lunches, days out, looking for soul mate, smart appearance, similar interests. N/S GSOH, easy going. Text only to Mailbox no: 4762600

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4290 Box 419673

**KIND** lady, 50s, been broken hearted, seeks kind, genuine man for caring relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419889

**DISCREET** man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. P's call. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4298 Box 418167

**PAT**, slim, single, 68, non-smoker, GSOH, likes going for walks etc, seeks male, slim, single, 66-70, non-smoker, clean-shaven, GSOH, with similar interests. Canterbury area. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419801

**CHRISTINA**, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Tel: 0906 515 4289 Box 410127

**MARION**, early 70s, young at heart, GSOH, active, likes walking, gardening, meals out, travel, theatre and animals, looking for male friendship to share interests. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 4196577

**MAUREEN**, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4274 Box: 405297

**CHANTELLE**, 51/3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883

**ATTRACTIVE** solvent business woman, 36yrs, seeks discreet gent any age for no strings discreet fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4692 Box 419701

**MARIE**, very lonely middle-aged woman, looking for a kind hearted older man, late 70s/early 80s for friendship/companionship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418955

**CHLOE**, pretty brunette, 30yrs good job but lacking male with a naughty side, is that you, age unimportant. Text only to Mailbox No: 4057558

**RACHEL** late 40s, blonde, blue eyes and very voluptuous. Looking for a kind, caring honest man. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box: 418741

**MELANIE**, tanned, toned, young 41yrs divorcee with own flat, working, solvent, just missing a chap. Text only to Mailbox No: 4112160

**ESSEX** lady, mid 60s, adaptable, seeking nice male, likes most things. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418537

**AMANDA**, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418117

**HELEN**, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243

**FEMALE**, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793

**RACHEL** attractive, blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, seeking kind, honest, generous kind male. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418403

**GORGEOUS** flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435

**FEMALE** easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603

**PAT**, 68, young at heart, slim, proud 4' 11" GSOH, N/S, likes walking etc Whistable area, seeks similar slim easy going male 60-70. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081

**SUSIE** fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably older, N/S male with own car. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537

**HAPPY** young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383

**KATIE**, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127

**NICE** female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start with. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 4710874

**BLONDE** female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 490925

**JAN** 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

**ATTRACTIVE** lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, W/LTM professional, caring, gent, 50-60's for attention and future together. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569

**JAN** 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

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**ALISON** 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418517

**ALISON** 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497

**DEBORAH** 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515

**ATTRACTIVE** black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215

**SARAH** 29yr old pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841

**SUE** young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171

**JACKIE** 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297

**BECKY** 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233

**LINDA** 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195

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**CLINT**, 37, kind, caring, honest and W/LTM someone of any age who is similar and looking for a relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419951

**DAVID**, 39yrs, divorced with no ties, lovely flat in Spain, seeks travel companion, single mums welcome. Text only to Mailbox No: 412425

**WHITE** Knight 59 5'10 tall, OHAC, in shining armour, looking for Damsel in Distress of similar age to share fun & laughter. Text only to Mailbox no: 5073004

**CALM**, kind and good company, male seeking a lovely lady for good times and fun and loving. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419733

**50YR** old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641

**MALE** 47, builder, seeks lady for companionship and closeness, age and looks unimportant. Text only to Mailbox no: 4924811

**MATTHEW**, five foot eleven, looking for a mature lady for discreet friendship and a few laughs. Dartford area. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419469

**45 year** old male, looking for a happy intelligent friendly female for company and evenings in or out, looks or race unimportant. Text only to Mailbox no: 5063649

**MALE** 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663

**LUCY** stunning tall brunette, looking for exciting times, seeks like-minded, adventurous male who is willing to try anything once or maybe even twice! Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416079

**PETITE** blonde, blue eyes, very feminine and sensual seeks younger male for friendship and discreet fun. Can accommodate. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416077

**ANGIE** attractive nurse 39yrs, new to area/advertising, likes dog walking, being sociable, meals in/out, W/LTM honest, fun male for possible fri. looks unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415827

**LISA** attractive petite Filipino female, very lonely, wanting to find love, companionship and to be happy, looking for friendship and more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415549

**SUE** 65, 5ft 8ins, blonde hair, fashionable, smoker, GSOH, enjoys meals out, travel, animals, W/LTM kind, shyish man for friendship, maybe more. Thanet area. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415735

**SUGAR** Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889

**SIMON**, 50, actor, loves music, films, reading, writing, loopholes, ambiguity, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia, W/LTM a pretty leggy female, 35 years plus for friendship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418827

**MALE** 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535

**50YR** old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641

**49YR** old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929

**48YR** old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789

**BARRY** 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for winning, dining and fun. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787

**VINCENT** 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397

**HAPPY** go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719

**GARY** 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175

**BARRY** 49, 6ft, well built, kind, affectionate, loving, seeks special lady for good times. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393855

**HARRY** 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

**MALE** 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535

**MIKE** Canterbury mature male, seeks single mum/lady, 28-42, slim-medium build for loving, caring relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415275

**MALE**, 39, tall, hardworking, 6ft 2, looking for long-term lover/older woman. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418877

**WRITER** tall, slim, dark hair, generous, seeking broadminded lady for fun times. Any age/status. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412749

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**JONATHAN** good looking, considerate, long curly hair, N/S, seeks tall, slim female, 30-45. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418451

**BRIAN** 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611

**YOUNG** 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easygoing, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539

**50YR** old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641

**49YR** old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929

**48YR** old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789

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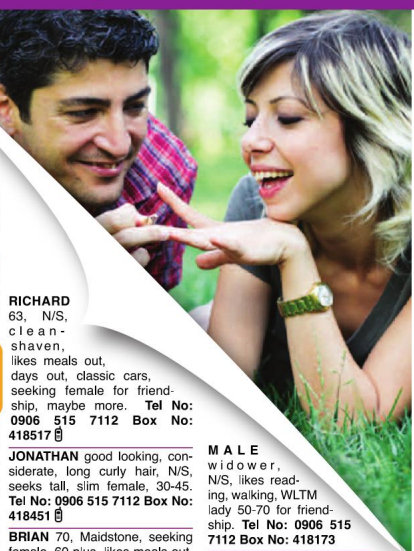
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**HARRY** 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

**MALE** 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535



**RICHARD** 63, N/S, clean-shaven, likes meals out, days out, classic cars, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418517

**MALE** widower, N/S, likes reading, walking, W/LTM lady 50-70 for friendship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418173

**COME** dine with me. Attractive black British male 50 yrs, 6ft, medium building, working, GSOH, romantic and genuine W/LTM similar female. Text only to Mailbox No: 4763687

**PETE** 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416421

**PAUL** 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, week-ends away, cosy nights in. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077

**BI** male 57 slim GSOH seeks local lady for fun and friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4751943

**JESSICA**, 53 yrs old, feminine, sexy, smooth body seeking gay or bi man for fun, must be non-smoker. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418713

**FEMININE**, sexy, cross-dresser, non-smoker, seeking cross-dresser gay or bi guy for fun. Must be non-smoker. Text only to Mailbox No: 4866072

**JESSICA**, 53 yrs old, feminine, sexy, smooth body seeking gay or bi man for fun, must be non-smoker. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418713

**BRIAN** happy go lucky, genuine, loving, likes nights in, DVDs, meals out, seeking genuine lady for loving, caring relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418197

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**BI** male 57 slim GSOH seeks local lady for fun and friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4751943

**JESSICA**, 53 yrs old, feminine, sexy, smooth body seeking gay or bi man for fun, must be non-smoker. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418713

**FEMININE**, sexy, cross-dresser, non-smoker, seeking cross-dresser gay or bi guy for fun. Must be non-smoker. Text only to Mailbox No: 4866072

**JESSICA**, 53 yrs old, feminine, sexy, smooth body seeking gay or bi man for fun, must be non-smoker. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418713

**BRIAN** happy go lucky, genuine, loving, likes nights in, DVDs, meals out, seeking genuine lady for loving, caring relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418197

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**MASTER:** Milton Jones is the king of the absurd and a big fan of subtle shirts... apparently

## Talking hats, jokes, shirts and appealing to fans of all ages

Comedy star Milton Jones ends his current tour at Dartford's Orchard Theatre

**M**ILTON Jones, the king of the one-liner and Mock the Week regular, is back and ending his current tour at the Dartford Orchard.

The man who can cram in up to 250 gags a night is stringing the quips together into a broader story, one that sees him take on the mantle of Indiana Jones, don the hat and set off on a madcap journey into surrealist comedy.

We caught up with him to talk about big hair, bad shirts and his new direction.

**Your tour is called *The Temple of Daft*. Why?**

Basically, previous tours have been lots of jokes in different forms, but basically lots of jokes. This is more of a story, more like one of my radio shows. It loosely, and I say

loosely, follows a kind of adventure-archaeology type story. It started off with me noticing that I had the same surname as Indiana Jones, and it has all transpired from there.

**Do you wear a hat? Do you have a whip?**

I do wear a hat at one point, not for the whole thing, 'cause then people would never see my hair.

**How do you prepare for a tour?**

Anything that I have written during this tour will go in to the next tour. I'm amassing jokes from the moment my last tour begins, and then once it finishes, I begin to go to little out of the way places to test them. Generally speaking, the further you travel, the more pleased they are to see you. I will go with bits of paper

and ideas, and it will be throwing mud against a wall and seeing what sticks. Eventually I'll accrue enough material to do try-outs nearer home. So, it's a trial and error process from the beginning of that. Years ago I started as an actor, and I'd quite like to incorporate more of it. For instance, previously the footprint of the tour has been I've gone on and done 15 minutes as a character, and then there's a support act, and then I do the whole second half. There's a different character this tour. Previously, I've done my granddad, but this will be my great-uncle, Sir Randolph Digby Jones. He's an explorer. I quite like warming the audience up with an obscure character to begin with, then making it more of a show.

**A lot of your comedy is quite word based - can you just come up with it?**

No. It's all about writing as much as you can, and then taking the top 10 per cent. There's lots of stuff I've discarded. The new show will have between 200 and 250 jokes, probably, but that doesn't mean that's all I've written; I've written another 100 that I've put in the bin, at least another 100, probably, maybe three times as much, and that's the hard work. Even after all this time, I'm thinking I have just written the best joke ever, and I go and do it and it just doesn't work - however, the thing I improvise off the back of it does work. But, I wouldn't have got to that place had I not tried the first one.

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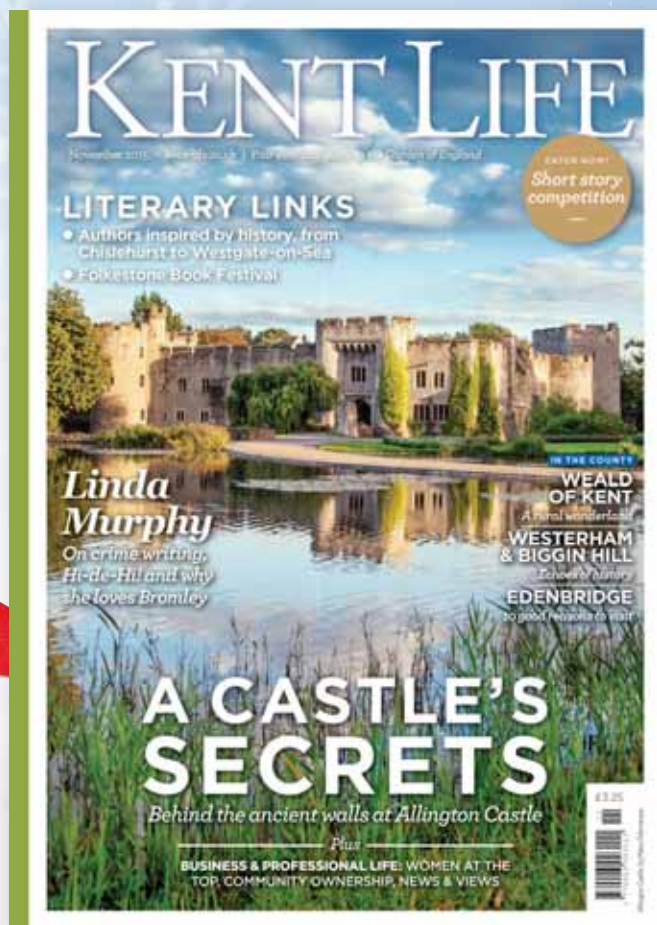




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## Songs from Golden Age

SONGS from the Golden Age of Hollywood will be performed at Dartford's Orchard Theatre next week.

From Tuesday songs from musicians such as Cole Porter and Irving Berlin can be heard.



## Totally Touchable gallery

AN art exhibition for the blind is running at the Woodville Theatre in Gravesend.

The exhibition will be giving people the chance to meet the artists involved on Monday and Friday of this coming week.

There is also a free family art workshop running on Saturday, November 14.

## Markets opening soon

AT the end of the month, Christmas markets will begin opening across the county.

Rochester Christmas market will open its doors on November 28, with Faversham's market starting on the 29th.



## Dance show at Marlowe

WORLD-renowned Royal New Zealand Ballet will make their Canterbury debut this coming week.

The Anatomy of a Passing Cloud, debuting in the UK, is heavily influenced by Pacific dancing, and the ballet will feature colours synonymous with the region.

# Milton Jones is set to end tour in Dartford

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 53

**A lot of your stuff is family friendly, and you're sometimes called a Christian comedian – do you think that by going against the flow it's served you rather well?**

Yes, although it's not a conscious effort: I'm not thinking how can I be different to this. I'm just doing what I would find funny myself, hopefully. And I think it is true that I get a very wide demographic, as a result, coming to my tours, because... it's partly having done Mock The Week and Radio 4, those two ends of the human life scale. And it's kind of accessible in a way that people feel happy to come as entire families, which is great to look at. It gives a slightly pantomime feel to a tour show because I know that there are grandparents who come with their grandchildren. I like that idea, it feels less niche and I quite often have to explain things, or a child will put their hand up and ask a question during a show, or it's clear that some grandparents have brought some other grandparents with them.



**And finally, we have to ask – where do you get your shirts from?**

Usually retro shops around about. It's tricky with shirts because people think, 'Oh zany shirt!' but actually the zaniest of shirts is too much. What I like are shirts that people go, 'Oh that looks... hang on, is that good or bad?' It needs to be quite subtle, in a way, and I've got 100s of them.

But yes, they are usually from Oxfam or retro shops where the old lady says, 'Oh, that looks just you, that does,' and they've no idea who I am.

■ Milton Jones concludes his UK tour, Temple of Daft, at Dartford's Orchard Theatre on November 29, 2015 at 8pm. Tickets are available for £25 from the comedian's website [www.miltonjones.com](http://www.miltonjones.com).



**MILTON:** Temple of Daft



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# Six unusual ways to keep colds at bay this winter

**Kate Whitling** provides top tips to fighting off the seasonal illness as winter edges ever closer...

If you work in an enclosed space with lots of other people, use public transport, or regularly hang around with people who do, then chances are you're going to get at least one cold at some point this winter.

Of course, there are things that can help (or make us feel like we're trying) to ward off the germs - and that doesn't just mean spritzing the antibacterial hand gel and popping vitamins.

Here are six less common methods for beating the seasonal sniffles:

## **DRINK CAMOMILE TEA**

People who drink camomile tea have high levels of the anti-inflammatory hippurate, which can ease cold symptoms. Plus, the herbal drink

will help you keep hydrated, which makes your body more able to fight infection.

## **HIBERNATE**

OK, we don't actually mean go to bed until spring, as tempting as that sounds. But this year, research at the University of California, San Francisco, found that a good night's sleep helps us fight off infections. Those who slept for less than six hours a night were four times more likely to get ill than those who regularly got more than seven hours' shut-eye. So turn in a little earlier each night to give your immune system a fighting chance.

## **MAKE TIME FOR SEX**

Couples who have sex once or twice a week have 30 per cent greater levels



**CAPTION:** Stroking your dog could fight the common cold

of the antibody immunoglobulin A, which helps combat colds, than those who get intimate less often, according to researchers at Wilkes-Barre University in Pennsylvania. But interestingly, those who had sex three times or more, had lower levels of the cold-fighting antibody than those who abstained completely. So maybe there can be too much of a good thing...

## **RUN A BATH**

According to scientists in the US, flu viruses love cold, dry air. These conditions dry up people's mucus, making it harder for the body to repel particles of the influenza virus. With this in mind, a hot steamy bath might not just be soothing and warming on a cold winter's evening

- it could help keep those vital mucus functions in top bug-beating condition too.

## **SWAP SEATS**

It might seem rude, but as airborne germs can fly up to 3.5 metres when someone coughs or sneezes (according to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology), the easiest way to avoid them is by moving away from the person on the bus/train/desk with a cold.

## **ADOPT A DOG**

Stroking a dog for 18 minutes can boost immunoglobulin A antibodies that fight infection, according to a study in the US. So what are you waiting for? But remember: a dog's for a life, not just to help you fight off a nasty cold.

## McElderry at Chatham

X FACTOR winner Joe McElderry will play Chatham's Britannia Theatre next week.

The star of the 2009 series will take the stage as part of the Evolution Tour - the follow up to his sell out tour in 2014.

From pop hits to opera, the singer's vocal range has earned him a host of fans.

VIP and regular tickets are still available for dates on November 14.

## One Man, One Guvnor

On the second extension of his sell out tour, Al Murray will be showing off his brand of comedy at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells.

The Pub Landlord will be performing on November 11, and is bound to bring some laughs to your Wednesday night.

Tickets are still on sale for what will be one of the final nights of the immensely popular British comedian's tour.

## Winter at Dover Castle

LATER this month the public can experience life in Dover Castle during the winter.

From November 21, Dover Castle will show the public what life was like in the castle during the cold winter months on Kent's coast.

Music, dance and storytelling, all next to a roaring fire will take visitors back in time to experience the magic of the castle in winter.

## Students' Shakespeare

FROM November 11, students from schools in Margate, Broadstairs and Chatham will be performing some of the finest plays ever written.

Shakespeare Schools Festival challenges young actors to show off their talent.

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# The harsh beauty of Patagonia

## TRAVEL REVIEW: Patagonia

by Sarah Marshall

**T**OWERING two and a half metres above me, the giant sloth emerging from the shadows of a cave below the Cerro Benitez would be terrifying if it wasn't carved from stone.

Had I been standing here 14,000 years ago, the mylodon might have been a real threat, but now, this life-size statue is simply a reminder of the enormous creatures that once roamed Patagonia's fittingly large-scale landscapes.

Vast grass plains, inhospitable ice fields and magnificent mountain ranges characterize this region, which straddles Chile and Argentina, and slopes towards the end of the earth.

It's also home to one of South America's most popular tourist attractions, the Torres del Paine National Park, where thousands of people come each year, from October to March, to complete the five-day W trek.

But with no limit on visitor numbers, the popular trail is at risk of becoming overcrowded - quite ironic when you consider how much space Patagonia has to offer.

Determined to get even further off the beaten track, I'm here to explore the area's forgotten trails, hidden caves and rarely used glacial waterways, hoping to experience the real pull of Patagonia: quiet isolation and the opportunity for adventure.

Standing outside the park at sunrise, in the grounds of the Estancia Cerro Guido, I watch the pink-tipped granite towers of the Paine massif emerge fleetingly from the clouds.

Early travel writer and explorer Florence Dixie probably visited this very spot 137 years ago, leading her



**PATAGONIA:** Home to mighty mountains and vast lakes, there is great beauty on a vast scale

to compare the cordillera to Cleopatra's Needle - the Egyptian obelisk erected at London's Victoria Embankment in the 19th century - in her book, *Across Patagonia*.

A metal sign clatters urgently as wind rages across the endless, empty plains, where I imagine several hundred mylodons could comfortably have roamed. Now only skunks, foxes and rheas skulk through the rippling fronds of lilac and russet grass.

A splintered wagon wheel, bent like plasticine by age and wind, is a reminder that this estancia - which offers 10 guest rooms - is still a working sheep farm.

I wander through a warehouse, built by early pioneers in 1927, where an antique industrial press made by John Shaw & Sons, Salford, was still in use up until three years ago.

I barely exchange a word with my horse-riding guide as we tackle the rugged trail up to Sierra Baguales,

where the blocky mountain ridge resembles a lower set of molars.

Any small talk would nevertheless be lost in the wind.

It's a very different story when I enter the park, and pitch my tent at the busy Torres campsite, where the majority of people are planning to set off on the W trek.

As a train of backpackers with walking poles snakes towards the towers, now barely visible in the clouds, my guide, Nico, and I take a

## TRAVEL FACTS

Sarah Marshall was a guest of Swoop Patagonia who offers a 12-day wildlife and adventure trip to Torres del Paine, Patagonia, two nights (full board) at Estancia Cerro Guido, five nights camping in and around the park, a two day kayak trip with overnight camping and two nights in Puerto Natales, from £2,950 per person. Flights extra. Visit [www.swoop-patagonia.co.uk](http://www.swoop-patagonia.co.uk)

different path, through calafate bushes and lenga forest, to the top of neighbouring Cerro Paine Chico. We don't encounter a single person along the way.

I stop at the Salto Grande waterfall, and am reminded of Tennyson's *The Charge Of The Light Brigade* as a cavalry of watery, white horses crashes over the rocks.

Wearing a heavy dry suit, I set off in a sea kayak along the Serrano River towards the neighbouring Bernardo O'Higgins Park.

We paddle past sand dunes sculpted by the wind, and I enjoy a moment of calm looking back at the Paine massif behind me.

Exhausted and bedraggled, I make it to our wild camping spot for the night, and stumble up a hill for a view of the Tyndall Glacier. Will tell me the nearest person is 40km away, a hermit gaucho who lives in the park.

Looking at the same snow-covered, jagged ridgeline, all I can see is difficulty, discomfort and potential danger.

But I do also recognise its beauty.

That's one view every visitor to Patagonia - no matter where they might be standing - can share.

## Film Reviews by Damon Smith



### BROOKLYN 12A

EILIS Lacey (Saoirse Ronan) is a shrinking violet in Enniscorthy. She lives with her mother and older sister Rose, and earns a meagre crust - and withering rebukes - at the local shop run by the imperious Miss Kelly. Thanks to Rose, Eilis

secures a one-way ticket to a brighter future in New York. Holy man Father Flood (Jim Broadbent) places Eilis at a boarding house for single girls run by Mrs Kehoe (Julie Walters), who clucks over the lodgers. Eilis' homesickness gradually fades and she excels as a salesgirl at a department store under stylish floor manager Miss Fortini (Jessica Pare). She also sparks a tender romance with a handsome plumber called Tony (Emory Cohen). Painfully innocent to courtship rituals, Eilis turns to the other girls at the boarding house and they advise her to carefully choose her bathing costume for an impending trip to Coney Island beach. The lovebirds marry in secret, but when Eilis returns home to Enniscorthy, local boy Jim Farrell (Domhnall Gleeson) unexpectedly turns her head and makes her hanker for small-town life. *Brooklyn* is a classic, old-fash-

ioned love triangle, which combines elegant storytelling, strong performances and swoonsome visuals.

RATING: Four stars

### SPECTRE 12A

THE newly appointed M, Gareth Mallory (Ralph Fiennes), battles with political forces, including Max Denbigh (Andrew Scott), to protect the integrity of MI6 following a merger with MI5. A cryptic message reveals ghosts from Bond's past and 007 (Daniel Craig) follows a chain of evidence that leads to Dr Madeleine Swann (Lea Seydoux), daughter of fugitive Mr White (Jesper Christensen), who was last seen in *Quantum Of Solace*. Aided by technical wizard Q (Ben Whishaw) and plucky agent Eve Moneypenny (Naomie Harris), Bond criss-crosses the globe in his



Aston Martin DB10 and infiltrates a menacing organisation named SPECTRE, fronted by the enigmatic Franz Oberhauser (Christoph Waltz). Rome, Tokyo, Altaussee in Austria, Tangier and London provide a picturesque backdrop to Bond's escapades as he meets his physical match in hulking henchman Mr Hinx (Dave Bautista). *Spectre* was always

going to struggle to meet expectations, but it's disappointing how far short this 24th big screen mission falls. At 148 minutes, the film overstates its welcome and a number of key scenes overrun, particularly the introduction of Waltz's shadowy archvillain.

RATING: Three stars



**D**ID you know that some flowers change colour when the flower has been pollinated, letting insects know there are no rewards on offer?

Others control exactly when pollinators enter or leave by opening and closing their petals at specific times, or emit a particular scent, or guide insects to the pollen through specific markings on their petals.

These and other fascinating facts are charted and beautifully photographed in *Pollination Power* by award-winning wildlife photographer Heather Angel, who has given workshops and lectures worldwide and worked closely with Kew.

For this, her 60th book, she visited 20 countries, trekking on foot, riding on horseback up mountains in Kazakhstan and using vehicles as mobile hides to capture the finer details of how insects and mammals are able to draw nectar from a variety of plants.

"New types of pollinators are being discovered - both by day and at night. As well as bats, the list of non-flying mammals continues to grow from small rodents in South Africa to marsupials in Australia," she observes.

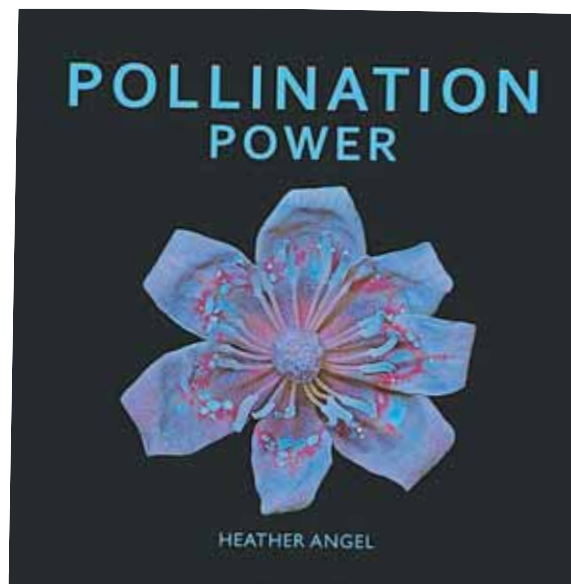
"Lizards and geckos are known to pollinate some native flowers on Atlantic and Indian Ocean islands."

Birds are also unwitting pollinators, reaching for nectar in flowers while the pollen-rich anthers brush their chest.

Annual and perennial plants can prolong the period they remain attractive to pollinators by staggering



**POLLEN:** A hummingbird hawk-moth hovering near a loofah flower, in China,



## Story of pollination in pictures

the opening of their flowers. Magnolia grandiflora flowers, for instance, control when their visitors enter and leave by the time the petals open and close. Beetles enter when the stigmas (the central tip which receives pollen for fertilisation) are receptive, become trapped overnight and leave after the stamens release pollen.

Plants also have control of their pollen distribution, through attrac-

tion, scent and guiding lines.

Bees are attracted to hues of violet, blue, yellow and white, but cannot see the colour red.

"You see a range of flowers and some are much more attractive to insects than others. Initially it's colour and shape which lure them in. Once they've found a good source they will come back to it.

"It was thought that red flowers

only attract birds. Hummingbirds pollinate the red flowers of Chilean lantern trees, but I noticed that big native bumble bees were also feeding on them. Why? Because it was found that particular flowers reflect some blue wavelengths, which enables bees to see the red flowers."

Quite a lot of flowers change colour after they've been pollinated, she explains. In others, flowers are shaped

to protect the pollen in adverse weather and to guide insects in.

"If you have something like a foxglove, which has a large upper lip that hangs over the lower one, it helps to protect the pollen from rain. On the lower lip, there are dark spots which act like a landing strip providing a visual guide to lead bees to the nectar."

:: *Pollination Power* by Heather Angel is published by Kew, priced £25.



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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

## Decision based on flawed grounds

THANK you for the very balanced and informative article on the Manston debacle with TDC. As a supporter of reopening the airport, which I used regularly and a resident of Margate since 2006, I feel that the cabinet which made the decision did so on flawed grounds.

Councillor Wells claims that he did not know who the investors were and had seen only redacted letters. I have been advised that he was told that unredacted copies of the letters could be viewed by TDC's lawyers at Riveroak's lawyer's offices, provided that the actual identities of the investors were not disclosed to TDC. I also believe that Chris Wells has met with more than one of the potential investors, so his claim not to know who they are is rather surprising. One investor I understand, went on to meet Sir Roger Gale at Westminster after meeting Cllr Wells – hardly the actions of a disinterested party.

Riveroak have continually requested an opportunity to address the full council to enable the Councillors to satisfy themselves regarding RO's credentials. They have been refused permission to do this. Some Councillors did have a meeting with RO partly via telephone I believe and the recording of this is in the public domain. Listening to it, RO come across as truthful, clear and open in their responses to some searching questions by the councillors.

The supporters of the airport cannot help but feel another agenda is at play, which involves houses on Manston, which would bring a huge income into the council in government grants and council tax. But we strongly feel that these proposed changes would not provide meaningful jobs and would simply change the character of Thanet altogether.

We hope and pray that sense is seen and maybe a coalition supporting Manston can push things forward.

**Michael Grantham,**  
 Concrete Solutions, Margate

## Dangers of 'fast track' planning

THE dangers of a 'fast track' planning process run by central government are very real (Perils of letting our planning be taken over by Whitehall KoS 25/10/2015). It's essential that local authorities that have not yet produced local plans

## LETTER OF THE WEEK



## Focus on evidence not imagined glory

COLIN Bullen's reply (Letters, 1.11) to my comments on the Weald of Kent Grammar School 'annex' simply confirms my call for a debate to "focus on evidence and values of fairness and not fantasies of halcyon days of imagined glory".

Colin falls into the trap that so many who have experienced advantage fall into, and that is they very quickly forget their position of advantage and how this is dependent on others, their peers, being at a disadvantage.

Assuming Colin was 11 in the early days of grammar education, the grammar school system did indeed enable a very small percentage of working class children (some research suggest as low as 0.3 per cent) to obtain 2 A-Levels. This represents the 'halcyon days of imagined glory'. Even at this time, grammar schools were deeply unpopular, not only from within the 80 per cent of the secondary school aged population who were denied access to educational aspiration but also the Tory party of the time. It is not only 'the liberal left'

(your words Colin) who dislike grammar schools – Margaret Thatcher refused to re-introduce grammar schools!

The evidence is clear; pupil performance at grammar school is no better than any other type of school. I struggle to understand the value system someone must maintain in order to offer a rational argument for using a test taken over two days at the age of 10 or 11 to separate young people into different buildings, school curricula and life chances.

If this exchange was about discussing football or even the tax system, I could have let our differences pass. But no, this is a serious moral debate. Selection at 11 has no place in the education of our young people, not in 1950s or now. It is a heinous act that sets up and maintains divisive social structures and if I may be so bold, if it also enables people such as yourself to believe the inaccurate and dangerous views you espoused last week, then it must be abolished.

**Alan Bainbridge**  
 Whitstable

complete this work.

However, the rush to meet the perceived need for housing and other development in Kent should not mean damaging the very environment that attracts people to live here. The CPRE is quite right to warn against short-term fixes that we will regret later.

The Government's requirement that local authorities identify sites that could be developed only adds to the complexity of the local

planning process and promises months, if not years, of anxiety and uncertainty.

Whilst it is true that local councils, including my own Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, are required to carry out this exercise and that because a site is identified does not necessarily mean it will be allocated for development, the very fact of a site appearing on the list will increase the pressure on many valuable

green spaces.

I urge people to go online and look at the sites identified in their local area. Many of these are clearly unsuitable for development and I cannot see what purpose this exercise serves other than to raise doubts and concerns.

Here in West Malling the Call for Sites map shows the village ringed by identified sites that most people will have assumed are protected from development, such as the much-loved Banky Meadow, land at Eden Farm, fields behind Douces Manor and a huge swathe of land to the north of Kings Hill.

It is clear that owners and developers have put forward sites which effectively fill in space between the 'village envelope' and roads or neighbouring communities. Elsewhere in the borough there are sites on the flood plain near Hildenborough and on farmland around Tonbridge.

All these sites will be subject to a "technical assessment" of their suitability and viability but sadly the history of planning shows that, once a site is identified as having "potential," then protections and objections can be overruled.

The public will be invited to comment formally as part of consultations on new Local Plans but I would urge everyone who values their local environment to take a keen interest now and make their views known.

**Richard Byatt,**  
 Tonbridge & Malling Green Party

## A shameful bit of cost cutting

REF: Maidstone council's announcement that the Sittingbourne Road park and ride bus service is to be closed down in February.

This is a shocking cost cutting measure that will affect hundreds of thousands of people that use this site both annually and on a daily basis.

The knock on effect to business via people's reduced access to Maidstone and the environmental benefits lost does not bear thinking about.

This site must be as big as the other two sites mentioned in the report put together.

Shame on Maidstone council for taking such a decision without consultation, hopefully, this will be remembered as a very poor decision on local services due to national cost cutting and will be reflected come local elections regarding the downgrading of local facilities.

**I Gillham,**  
 Rochester

## KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

**We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.**





## Ramsgate Harbour... in the fog

by **Brian Summers,**  
**Faversham**

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By Steve Loader  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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**INFINITI:** The Q30's ride and driving dynamics need to be top notch if the brand is going to keep on growing and take on the likes of Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz



## Infiniti opens up with Q30

**PREVIEW:** All-new model sees Nissan's premium arm take on the dominant Germans in an attempt to crack the premium/executive hatchback sector

**G**REAT name Infiniti, but Nissan's posh badge has not pushed the horizon so far, let alone disappeared beyond.

Part of the problem is that its cars have been more geared to North America than Britain and Europe, the backyard for posh German marques like Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz.

That should change in January though when Infiniti launches the all-new Q30 executive hatchback, with the added sales boost from being UK-built at Nissan's hugely successful Sunderland plant.

It is good looking too, with the sleek yet powerful stance we have come to expect from Infiniti, but styling is not the issue for the brand, and neither is quality and value.

Infiniti's problem is delivering the driving dynamics that bestow a credibility, from which prestige and sheer snob value is derived – BMW's rise to UK dominance being the perfect example.

To be fair, the Q30 won't have much trouble seeing off BMW's 1 Series hatch as far as looks are concerned, but the rear-wheel drive Beemer is the stand out driver's car in the premium hatch sector.

The Q30, said to be based on the underpinnings of the rival Mercedes-Benz A-Class, is front-driven, as is the Audi A3 and VW Golf – the



latter also strays into the premium hatch buyers' thinking.

Of course, front-wheel drive doesn't mean it will be a dog – it offers great agility and entertainment in cars of this size – but the Q30 must deliver; if it does, it will bring much-needed brand credibility and recruit valuable

customers to bigger models in the line-up.

But while there is prestige at stake, the all-important company car sector will play its part: the Q30 will be offered with 1.6 and 2.0-litre petrol engines, but the key focus will be the tax efficiency and economy of its 1.5 and 2.2-litre diesels.



# X-Perience - SEAT's 'crossover estate'

Spanish marque has created a 4x4 country lifestyle estate that is both elegant and practical – who needs a 'funky chunky' SUV? writes **Steve Loader...**

**C**HUNKY crossovers are the 'in' thing so it's probably no surprise that some carmakers fancy their chances with a macho-looking estate.

It ticks several of the boxes that make crossovers appeal – slightly higher ride height, lots of load space and robust styling – while tending to sit better on bends without a typical crossover's wallow-inducing height.

SEAT's butch estate offering is particularly pleasing, because it is based on the elegant Leon ST, and labelled as the X-Perience (from £24,920) but its urbane ST Dr Jekyll appearance is transformed into a rumbustious Mr Hyde by a cocktail of robust add-ons, including a premium aluminium trimmed back end with twin exhausts.

This is not just for show though: VW's Spanish arm has boosted the ride height by about 3cm over the standard ST and installed a latest generation VW Haldex AWD (all-wheel drive) system.

Normally driving the front wheels for best economy, it automatically directs power to the rear if loss of traction is detected.

Throw in Hill Hold Control, the



aforementioned protection, a pliable suspension more suited to gentle off-road yomping, and you have a rather genteel and stylish rural runabout – though city types may be drawn to its 'country lifestyle' image.

But while it can get itself out of sticky situations that would trouble most normal cars, the X-Perience is

no mug on the road either. Sure, the softer suspension destroys some of the standard Leon's tautness, but it is a fun drive with tenacious grip, thanks to the AWD.

It also walks the talk as a lifestyle estate, with a sizeable 587-litre boot, quickly converted into 1,470 litres by pulling a lever to fold the rear seats



– ideal for the huntin', shootin' and fishin' brigade. And there's a protective chrome load sill – useful if you regularly carry a canine passenger.

If you want even more space then sister brand Skoda offers the slightly larger Octavia Scout, but SEAT's arguably sportier image and the

## SEAT Leon X-Perience SE 2.0 TDI 150PS

Price:	from £24,920
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Skoda Octavia Scout

classy lines of the X-Perience should be enough to clinch the deal.

Power comes from a smooth 2.0-litre diesel, available in 148bhp guise with six-speed manual 'box, or 182bhp with six-speed twin-clutch DSG auto/manual. Unless you have to have the DSG's non-nonsense auto function – and it's tempting – the cheaper 148bhp delivers what you need: low down power, economical cruising – 58.9mpg (official combined) – and a sporty gearshift.

The cabin is well-organised, up-spec and less flaky looking than the previous Leon, if a little sanitized.

X-Perience prices are not cheap, but standard kit makes it a class act by including: alloys, black roof rails, rear privacy glass, rear parking sensors, dual zone climate control, leather steering wheel with orange stitching and cloth/faux leather front sports seats.

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# Main Dealer SERVICING

## 'FMDSH' spells one thing - value

**E**VER scanned a used car ad and wondered what on earth the seller means by DSH, MDSH or FMDSH.

They are all shorthand for variations on the theme 'dealer service history' with FMDSH being the 'gold standard' - full main dealer service history.

Does it matter? Well, many new car owners think it does, to protect future part exchange or second-hand values of their cherished motor, since used car buyers will happily pay a premium for a complete and unblemished main dealer service history.

Cynics might argue: "Ah, but you wiped out any perceived premium by paying more for your main dealer servicing while you owned the car."

It's a point, but main dealers specialise in servicing their own models, while 'all makes' service sites must spread their expertise more thinly.

And franchised dealers, having seen sales profits squeezed ever more tightly, have chosen to market servicing more aggressively.

They've become more cost-effective and introduced competitive pricing on items like tyres - normally the preserve of the quick-fit



**MAIN PIC:**  
Mercedes-Benz technician

**WORTH MORE WITH DSH?:** the five-year warranty on a Hyundai i40 Tourer (below) should be worth more if servicing is by one of the brand's dealers

centres. Happy service customers keep coming back too, bringing immediate revenue and the possibility that they might buy another new car soon.

Third party sources also support the wisdom of keeping your new car in the franchise family.

Media motoring guru Honest John really was honest with a BMW owner considering an independent garage to maintain his car:

"After independent servicing, you will get a lower part-ex price from a BMW dealer and it will go to auction. If the car has a full dealer service history and is in retail

condition, you will get a higher price. The difference will normally be worth more than you save on maintenance."

Motor Trade Insider website polled professional motor traders who collectively buy 5,000 cars per

year for main dealers. The simple question was:

"If you were asked to bid on a three-year old variant of one of your models with average mileage and spec would you value it any less if it had three KwikFit/Halfords etc stamps against three stamps from the franchise representing by the car?"

"The results in some cases were staggering: the Ford and VW buyers said they would value a car like this between £800-1,000 less. The Jaguar buyer said it would need to be £1,500 to £2,000 less and, amazingly, the BMW and Mercedes boys said they probably just wouldn't want to buy it!"



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Week ending November 8, 2015 **59**



# Servicing on a fixed budget... from a menu

**Y**OU really don't want a shock when you are handed the bill after the next service on the car, especially in these tough economic times.

So it's hardly surprising that many people are turning to dealers offering fixed price service menus and plans, to control and smooth out the motoring budget.

The idea took off first with premium brands whose service costs were perceived as pricey, and capitalised on an owner's natural reluctance to jeopardise the car's future value by servicing outside the dealer network.

More mainstream brands have adopted the same tactic though, to counter ambitious independent and quick-fit operators, only too happy to siphon off the steady

churn of servicing work.

Service plans can also be quite flexible – some are even free. Initially, they were launched to cover the car's warranty period – transferable in the event of the car's sale – or on an annual basis, but many brands have followed up with one-off deals or monthly instalment options, recognising that many drivers like to break down their motoring budget into more manageable chunks of money.

Best advice is to ask your main dealer about the menu of fees and schemes available and get advice on the pros and cons of each one. The blurb for such schemes uses the word 'policy' a lot, for that is virtually what they are: insurance policies for servicing and the vehicle warranty – a cost-effective, but necessary part of the month-by-month/annual cost of running a car.



**CAN YOU FIX IT?** See if there's a fixed service plan available for your new car or van such as the new Hyundai Tucson (left) or versatile Mercedes-Benz Vito (above)



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MOTION & EMOTION



# Care for your car

**M**ODERN cars may be more reliable than ever before, but there's less that the DIY mechanic can do. So, keeping the car reliable and safe is now best left to professionals and, of course, it costs.

Unfortunately, this also means that owners often ignore problems for too long and servicing is stretched beyond recommended parameters, risking the car's warranty and provenance when you come to sell. So:

- Get it serviced at the correct mileages or annually and have the servicing book stamped up, although motor brands are switching to centralised digital records.
- Check the warranty - beware possible pitfalls that could endanger the guarantee.
- Act on recalls from the manufacturer for checks or replacements - it will help maintain the car's warranty and future saleability.
- Don't rely on the MOT certificate to assure the car's safety and reliability. Problems can arise at any time, so have them checked immediately.
- Check lights and tyres regularly for safety and legality. The latter must be at the correct pressures listed in the handbook or a sticker often placed on the driver's door frame. Legal tread depth is 1.6mm, but most motoring authorities advise replacement at 2mm, especially in winter.
- Keep oil, washer, coolant, power steering, clutch and brake fluid levels topped up without over-filling, and make those checks on level ground. Don't wait for warning lights - it could be too late to prevent damage, or may compromise safety. Don't be caught out.
- There is little point in keeping the washer topped up if wiper blades are worn or split. And if the windscreen is covered with bugs and grease, don't expect the washer and wipers to do the job for you - use a spray and elbow grease.

**KEEP A CHECK:** modern vehicles like the Renault Clio (inset) and Mercedes-Benz Citan (below) van need professional care, but there's no need for you or your company to be careless



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## Main Dealer Servicing



**DEALS ON WHEELS:** check whether your main dealer can offer a competitive price and one-stop shop on new tyres or an exhaust on your new Hyundai i10 city car (above) or Peugeot 2008 crossover (below)

## Dealers hit back at the 'quick fit' trend

IT'S tempting to try to save the car budget by using a local 'quick-fit' centre.

These have prospered as drivers try to save on motoring 'consumables': exhausts, tyres, batteries, clutches, shock absorbers, air conditioning checks and routine services.

But main dealers have hit back, reckoning that if drivers are still using their service bays, they'll be open to realistic deals on such items to ensure a time-saving one-stop shop purchase.

Using a main dealer also guarantees genuine manufacturers' parts are used, bringing the confidence of additional quality and reliability.

And that same guarantee, plus realistic pricing has encouraged getting bodyshop repairs

done either by the franchise or one that gets its seal of approval.

Main dealers have also borrowed from quick-fit rivals, by offering menu pricing: a customer can decide what he wants and know in advance what it will cost.

Some dealers will even let you spread the cost via a finance or servicing scheme covering several years; pioneers here were sister brands BMW and MINI, using their Inclusive and TLC schemes respectively.

Dealers may also offer a loyalty scheme to retain owners of older models rather than see them defect to the non-

franchised sector, because those owners believe their car's lower value does not warrant the higher perceived cost of main dealer servicing.

Another trick borrowed from the quick-fitters is longer opening hours; dealers realise many customers want to drop their car off early on their way to work and collect at the end of the day – a courtesy car may even be offered.

Centralised bookings can often be made too, so that customers living midway between franchised dealers within the same group can pick the most convenient service slots available.





# Air con not just for summer

**A**IR conditioning for cars arrived in the USA in 1933, but it was not until the 1990s that it began to be commonplace on UK cars - now we often wonder how we coped without it in summer.

Not so in winter, when systems tend to be neglected, yet it can be a boon for demisting windscreens fast. Unfortunately, it's on these occasions that the system is often found to have failed.

Most car manufacturers recommend that air conditioning be re-gassed or charged every two years, and some motorists ask for the system to be checked at every annual service.

Air con loses around 10 per cent of its gas every year and it is standard industry advice to run the system for a few minutes regularly outside of the warm months, just to keep everything in order or highlight the need for servicing before it is to be used in earnest.

## AIR CON EXPECTED:

no longer seen as a luxury on cars like the newly-launched Hyundai i20 Active hatchback and Renault Kadjar crossover (inset)



**GET IT CHECKED TOO:** dealers are usually competitive on air conditioning checks and re-gassing

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**INCLUDED:** GN Cruise Team on board • Return rail travel from London St Pancras to Brussels or return flights with hand luggage from Heathrow - supp't may apply • 4 nights full-board on the mps Princess sharing a twin outside cabin on Main Deck - upgrades available • Welcome cocktail on arrival • Beer, wine, and soft drinks served at lunch and dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Morning and afternoon coffee/tea and cakes • Buffet breakfast and lunch • Dinner served at your table • Late night snacks • Captain's dinner • Entertainment • Transfers abroad



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"The break was excellent. The boat and crew fantastic. A1 service - would like to do it again."  
Mrs Sharp  
"Everything was 1st class, would do it again."  
Mr & Mrs Scott



Monschau

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Bruges

## Three Countries Christmas Markets River Cruise by Rail or Air

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## Germany & Belgium Christmas Markets River Cruise by Rail or Air

Departs 1 December, 2015 - Quote TC12-1-KOS

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Maastricht > Aachen > Antwerp > Bruges > Brussels

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**INCLUDED:** GN Cruise Team on board • Return rail travel from St Pancras or Ebbsfleet to Brussels or return flights with cabin bag from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply • 3-nights full board cruise on the mps Princess sharing a twin outside rear cabin on Main Deck - upgrades available • Beer, wine and soft drinks served at lunch and dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Entertainment • Captain's Dinner and Pirate Fancy Dress Party • Transfers abroad



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Closing date: 13/11/2015

**Qualifications and Experience**

- Maths and English GCSE A – C Grade or equivalent
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- Exceptional customer service skills.

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Julie Pain, Administration Supervisor on 01843 234558

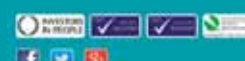
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**The ideal applicant...**

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Or Email: [k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk](mailto:k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk)

**Closing Date: 16th November 2015, 9.00am**  
**Interviews: Week Commencing 23rd November 2015**

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

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## LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF INTENDED LAND DISPOSAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 123 (2A)

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council intends to dispose of the freehold interest in an area of land, which is for identification purposes described in the schedule to this notice.

This notice is given in so far as the area of land consists of or forms part of an open space within the meaning of the above Section.

A plan of the land is available to view at the Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AB or at the Weald Information Centre, The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook TN17 3HF.

Objections to the proposed disposals must be made in writing to Mid Kent Legal Service Manager, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS by no later than Friday 13 November 2015.

### SCHEDULE

Snipe Close and land lying to the south east of Snipe Close, Pembury (approximately 0.033 acres)

Stonecourt Lane, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.113 acres)

Land at Cleavers, Sissinghurst, Cranbrook (approximately 0.163 acres)

Land to the Rear of 40 - 46 Charles Street, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.026 acres)

Land on the north (West) side of Powder Mill Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.062 acres)

Land on the north (East) side of Powder Mill Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.099 acres)

Land being the site of Oakfield Road, Matfield, Tonbridge, Kent (approximately 0.201 acres)

John Scarborough, Head of Legal Services

Dated 23 October 2015

### PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

An application has been made by:

**Sabesan Shanmugarajah** for the premises **JAJ Your Local Choice, 55 Ordinance St, Chatham, Kent ME4 6SJ**

On the date of: **28/10/15**

Summary of the proposed licensable activities and the proposed hours of opening:

**RETAIL SALE OF ALCOHOL OFF THE PREMISES**

**MONDAY TO SUNDAY  
BETWEEN THE HOURS 06:00 TO 24:00**

Should you wish to make representations to the council it must be in writing and/or you can view my application by contacting the council on 01634 337107 or 337108 by 25/11/2015

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

For more information contact Licensing Unit by telephone: Licensing Services - 01634 337107 or 337108 / Enforcement - 01634 337112 or 337106 or by email: [licensing@medway.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@medway.gov.uk)

Write to: Licensing Unit, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR

### LICENSING ACT 2003:

#### Application for Premises Licence

Take notice that **Stanny's Smokehouse BBQ Ltd** has made an application in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 for a premises licence for **Stanny's Smokehouse BBQ Ltd, 146 High Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1ER**.

The application is to apply for the following licensable activities: **Sale of Alcohol and Regulated Entertainment; and, Late Night Refreshment**.

This application has been made to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR. Full details of the application and plans can be viewed at Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR during normal hours of business.

Any interested party who wishes to make a representation about this application should do so in writing to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR or by sending an email to [licensing@medway.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@medway.gov.uk). No later than **Tuesday 1st December 2015**.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application which, upon conviction, carries a maximum fine of £5,000.

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# Saunders: 'We've nothing to fear'

Boss says he is ready for Maidstone's FA Cup tie with Yeovil



## Football

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

MAIDSTONE United boss Jay Saunders says his side will have no fear going into Sunday's first round FA Cup tie with Yeovil Town at the Gallagher Stadium.

The Stones have enjoyed a fine start in the National League South, where they currently sit third in the table, and breezed through the cup qualifying rounds to get to this stage, seeing off Chippenham Town, Dunstable Town and South Park in the process.

Though Saunders says the two competitions can't be compared.

He told KoS: "The dynamic of games in the FA Cup are completely different.

"Week-in, week-out you know what you're going up against, but

**HOME:** Maidstone United's Gallagher Stadium, where they will take on Yeovil Town in the FA Cup on Sunday

that isn't the case in the cups, and we had that a bit in the last round against Chippenham.

"We've done as much on Yeovil as we can, and if you do that, if your preparation is spot on, then you've always got half a chance."

The prize money and increased media attention that comes with a cup run will do the club the world of good, but Saunders claims the glamour tie had proved something of an irritating distraction last month.

"It got on my nerves a bit last week because everyone was talking about the cup tie but I wanted to focus on the league game against Concord," he said.

"But now we're able to enjoy the build up a bit more and there's a real buzz about the whole place.

"When you get to this stage you want to draw a league side.

"Yeovil are still a huge club, they were in the Championship only a couple of years ago, so for someone like ourselves it's exciting and a great opportunity to test ourselves.

"The boys won't need motivating for a game like this so it makes my job a bit easier.

"Often we're expected to win in the league, so to go into the game as underdogs means there's less pressure on us and allows us to perform a bit better."

Maidstone managed to reach the second round of the competition last season, and Saunders says the boost of playing at home could be crucial if they are to emulate last year's success.

"I think you'd definitely rather play at home in these type of games.

"To have a 3,000-strong crowd behind us can only help."

## Quartet named in Footgolf World Cup squad

FOUR Kent players have been named in the UK's Footgolf World Cup squad ahead of the tournament in Argentina in January.

The 15-man squad, which was announced on Tuesday, featured 10 automatic picks, including West Kingsdown's Steve Baker and Karl May from Chatham.

The others were hand-selected by the captain to join the squad, and Chris Anderson from Sittingbourne and Pembury's Dan Spice were among the lucky five.

Spice, a 23-year-old administrator, said: "It must have been such a difficult decision because there are quite a few people who deserved a spot so I know I'm very lucky.

"This will be the biggest event that I've done and my first trip abroad with the sport.



**PICKED:** Pembury's Dan Spice in action

"It's always been a dream of mine to play a sport internationally so I'm very proud to represent the UK.

"I'm very confident that we can do well, the UK squad that has been playing in Europe is ranked number one."

Spice, who claims to have played in more tournaments than anybody else in the country, says he is delighted with how quickly the sport is growing.

"I've always played football and golf but had my first round of footgolf about two years ago at Crawley, which was the closest course to me.

"Now there are dozens, which shows how the sport has grown.

"In the summer it completely took over my life and the amount of tournaments I've played in now is outrageous."

The objective of footgolf is to complete a round in as few kicks, or strokes, as possible.

## Sport Shorts

» Email [sports@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:sports@kosmedia.co.uk) or call Tom Pyman on 01233653477

## Defender Lennon signs Gills loan extension

GILLINGHAM have extended the loan of centre-back Harry Lennon from Charlton Athletic for another month.

The 20-year-old defender joined the club on October 2 and scored his first professional goal in the 3-1 win over Chesterfield a week later.

He then went on to score the winner in the 2-1 victory over Scunthorpe at MEMS Priestfield Stadium on October 20.

The new deal will see him eligible up to, and including, the Gills' home game against Burton on December 12.

Boss Justin Edinburgh said: "It's great news that we have been able to extend Harry's deal, he has been an excellent addition to our squad and has performed consistently well.

"His defending has been first class and he's also chipped in with a couple of important goals, we very much look forward to working with him again in the weeks ahead."

In total Lennon has played in six games during his second loan spell with the club.



**BOSS:** Justin Edinburgh



**ACADEMY:** Kent's potential stars of the future have been named

## Eight new scholars at Kent Cricket Academy

KENT Cricket Academy welcomed eight new scholars as it announced its squad for the 2015/16 season.

This year's intake features three wicketkeepers as Oliver Robinson, 16, is joined by newcomers Sam Smith, 15, and Jordan Cox, 14.

Tunbridge Wells all-rounder Marcus O'Riordan returns to the academy joined by brother Julian, 14, as they bid to become the first brothers since Chris and Graham Cowdrey to represent the Kent first team.

Among the bowlers is Jan Gray

and Oliver Hills while all-rounders Tom Davis and Charlie Russell-Vick also join.

The youngest scholar is Joe Gordon, a 13-year-old batsman from Canterbury with Alex Moen, 15, of Bickley Park, another aspiring batsman.

Led by high performance director Simon Willis, the academy has produced 25 cricketers who have graduated from the academy to the senior first teams in 12 years, as well as England internationals Billings and Joe Denly.

## Kinnear scoops managerial gong

DOVER Athletic boss Chris Kinnear has been named as the National League Manager of the Month for October.

The award came after Kinnear guided his side to six wins in seven games, including victories at Gateshead and Tranmere Rovers.

Dover began the month in ninth place, seven points off the top, but a

superb run of form saw the Whites move up to third, where they currently sit, just two points behind league leaders Forest Green Rovers.

They have also enjoyed success in the FA Cup, seeing off Eastbourne Borough in a 2-1 win a fortnight ago to set up a first round tie with fellow non-league side Stourbridge this weekend.

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